Vol. LV—No. 2.

181

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Accn. No. 250
11 SEP 47
LIBRARY

# Assembly Proceedings

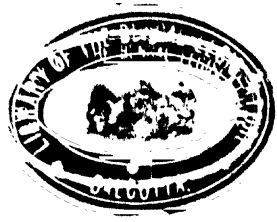
## Official Report

# Bengal Legislative Assembly

## Sixth Session, 1939

5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 11th December, 1939

Superintendent, Government Printing
Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal
1939



## GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

### GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency SIR JOHN ARTHUR HERBERT, G.C.I.E.

### MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

(*1*) The Hon'ble Mr. ABUL KASEM FAZLUL HUQ, in charge of the Education Department.

(*2*) The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER, in charge of the Finance Department.

(*3*) The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN, K.C.I.E., in charge of the Home Department.

(*4*) The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY, in charge of the Revenue Department.

(*5*) The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca, in charge of Local Self-Government and Industries Departments.

(*6*) The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar, in charge of Communications and Works Department.

(*7*) The Hon'ble Mr. HUSEYAN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY, in charge of Commerce and Labour and Rural Reconstruction Departments.

(*8*) The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur, in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Departments.

(*9*) The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT, in charge of the Forests and Excise Departments.

(*10*) The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK, in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Departments.

(*11*) The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN, in charge of Public Health, Medical, Agriculture and Veterinary Departments.

## GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

## PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SPEAKER.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.

DEPUTY SPEAKER.

M. ASHRAFALI, Esq., Barrister-at-law.

SECRETARY.

K. ALI AFZAL, Esq., Barrister-at-law.

FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Rai N. N. SEN GUPTA Bahadur.

SECOND ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Khan Sahib QUAZI MUHAMMAD SADRUL OLA.

REGISTRAR.

K. C. GHOSH, Esq.

# BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

### A

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md. [Narayanganj East (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza. [Tangail West (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hafiz Mia, Mr. [Kurigram South (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hakeem, Mr. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hakim, Maulvi. [Mymensingh West (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md. [Munshiganj (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M. [Pabna West (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi. [Kishoreganj North (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi. [Dinajpur Central East (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Jabbar Palwan, Mr. Md. [Jamalpur North (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Kader, Mr. [Patuakhali South (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Karim, Mr. [Jamalpur *cum* Muktagacha (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi. [Manikganj West (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Majid, Maulvi. [Mymensingh North (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed. [Noakhali South (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr. [Bakarganj West (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Wahed, Maulvi. [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]

Abdulla-Al Mahmood, Mr. [Serajganj North (Muhammadan).]

Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur, A. F. M. [24-Parganas North-East (Muhammadan).]

Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr. (Muslim Chamber of Commerce.)

Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md. [Birbhum (Muhammadan).]

Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr. [Serajganj North (Muhammadan).]

Abdur Rauf, Khan Sahib Maulvi S. [Howrah (Muhammadan).]

Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah. [Rangpur South (Muhammadan).]

Abdur Razzak, Maulvi. [Feni (Muhammadan).]

Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md. [Dacca North Central (Muhammadan).]

Abidur Reza Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Chandpur West (Muhammadan).]

Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi. [Gaibandha North (Muhammadan).]

Abul Fazl, Mr. Muhammad [Madaripur West (Muhammadan).]

Abul Hashim, Maulvi. [Burdwan (Muhammadan).]

Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr. [Netrokona North (Muhammadan).]

Abul Quasem, Maulvi. [Hooghly (Muhammadan).]

Acharyya Choudhury, Maharaja Sashi Kanta, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh. (Dacca Landholders)

Aftab Ali, Mr. (Water Transport Trade Union.)

Aftab Hossain Joardar, Maulvi. [Nadia East (Muhammadan).]

Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana. [Jhenidah (Muhammadan).]

Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi. [Goalundo (Muhammadan).]

Ahmed Hosain, Mr. [Gaibandha South (Muhammadan).]

Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed. [Noakhali South (Muhammadan.)]

Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Midnapore (Muhammadan).]

Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi. [Noakhali Central (Muhammadan).]

Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md. [Rajshahi South (Muhammadan).]

Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md. [Chittagong South (Muhammadan).]

Ashraf Ali, Mr. M. [Natore (Muhammadan).]

Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Tippera Central (Muhammadan).]

Aulad Hossain Khan, Maulvi. [Manikganj East (Muhammadan).]

Azhar Ali, Maulvi. [Pabna East (Muhammadan).]

Azizul Haque, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M., C.I.E. [Nadia West (Muhammadan).]

B

Banerjee, Dr. Suresh Chandra. [Calcutta and Suburbs (Registered Factories).]

Banerji, Mr. P. [24-Parganas North-West (General).]

Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath. [Burdwan North-West (General).]

Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath. [Howrah (Registered Factories).]

Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya. [Rajshahi (General).]

Barat Ali, Mr. Mohammad. [Serajganj Central (Muhammadan).]
Barma, Babu Premhari. [Dinajpur (General).]
Barma, Mr. Puspajit. [Rangpur (General).]
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad. [Dinajpur (General).]
Barman, Babu Upendra Nath. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General).]
Basu, Mr. Jatindra Nath. [Calcutta North (General).]
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar. [Calcutta East (General).]
Bell-Hart, Miss P. B. (Anglo-Indian Constituency.)
Bhowmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra. [Midnapore East (General).]
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah (European).]
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan. [Nadia (General).]
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal. [Jessore (General).]
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath. [Faridpur (General).]
Blomenstok, Mr. L. M. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra. [Calcutta South (General).]
Brasher, Mr. F. C. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]
Brown, Mr. A. O. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]

## C

Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath. [Rangpur (General).]
Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (General).]
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada. [Nadia (General).]
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath. [24-Parganas Municipal (General).]
Chippendale, Mr. J. W. (Anglo-Indian.)
Clark, Mr. I. A. [Burdwan Division (European).]

## D

Das, Mr. Mahim Chandra. [Chittagong (General).]
Das, Babu Radha Nath. [Hooghly North-East (General).]
Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra. [24-Parganas North-West (General).]
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan. [Murshidabad (General).]
Das, Mr. Monomohan. [Mymensingh East (General).]
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath. [Birbhum (General).]
Das Gupta, Mr. Khagendra Nath. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General).]

Das Gupta, Dr. J. M. [Calcutta Central (General).]

Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath. [Bakarganj South-West (General).]

Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath. [Tippera (General).]

Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath. [Jhargram *cum* Ghatal (General).]

Dutt, Mr. Sukumar. [Hooghly South-West (General).]

Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira. [Calcutta General (Women).]

Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu. [Barrackpore (Registered Factories).]

## E

Edbar, Mr. Upendranath. [Bakarganj South-West (General).]

Emdadul Haque, Kazi. [Kurigram North (Muhammadan).]

## F

Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M. [Jangipur (Muhammadan).]

Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum. [Dacca (Muhammadan) Women.]

Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. [Patuakhali North (Muhammadan).]

Fazlul Qadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Chittagong North-West (Muhammadan).]

Fazlur Rahman, Mr. [Jamalpur East (Muhammadan).]

Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca University.)

French, Mr. F. H. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

## G

Ganguly, Mr. Pratul Chandra. [East Bengal Municipal (General).]

Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna. [Jessore (General).]

Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Jamalpur West (Muhammadan).]

Golam Sarwar Hosaini, Mr. Shah Syed. [Ramganj *cum* Raipur (Muhammadan).]

Gomes, Mr. S. A. [Dacca Division (Indian Christian).]

Goswami, Mr. Tulsi Chandra. [Burdwan Division North Municipal (General).]

Griffiths, Mr. C. (Anglo-Indian.)

Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra. [Calcutta South Central (General).]

Gupta, Mr. J. N. [Railway Trade Union (Labour).]

Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh. [Darjeeling (General).]

Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Al-Hadj. [Madaripur East (Muhammadan).]

## H

Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca. [Dacca Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi. [Thakurgaon (Muhammadan).]

Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib. [Kishoreganj East (Muhammadan).]

Hamilton, Mr. K. A. (Calcutta Trades Association.)

Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed. [Tangail North (Muhammadan).]

Hasanuzzaman, Maulvi Md. [Tippera South (Muhammadan).]

Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Bakarganj North (Muhammadan).]

Hasina Murshed, M.B.E., Mrs. [Calcutta (Muhammadan) Women.]

Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi. [Pirojpur South (Muhammadan).]

Hawkings, Mr. R. J. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]

Hendry, Mr David (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Hirtzel, Mr M A. F. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

## I

Idris Ahmed Mia, Mr. [Malda South (Muhammadan).]

Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]

## J

Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Cox's Bazar (Muhammadan).]

Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed. [Satkhira (Muhammadan).]

Jalan, Mr. I. D. [Calcutta West (General).]

Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr. [24-Parganas South (Muhammadan).]

Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi. [Chandpur East (Muhammadan).]

## K

Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Netrokona South (Muhammadan).]

Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed. [Murshidabad South West (Muhammadan).]

Kennedy, Mr. I. G. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)

Khaitan, Mr. Debi Prosad. (Indian Chamber of Commerce.)

Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall. [Midnapore Central (General).]

Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra. [Malda (General).]

Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath. [Dinajpur (General).]

## M

MacGregor, Mr. G. G. (Indian Tea Association.)

Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr. [Bogra North (Muhammadan).]

Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi. [Tippera North (Muhammadan).]

Mafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi. [Balurghat (Muhammadan).]

Maguire, Mr. L. T. (Anglo-Indian.)

Mahatab, Maharajkumar Uday Chand. [Burdwan Central (General).

Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Dinajpur Centra West (Muhammadan).]

Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari. [Midnapore South-East (General).]

Maitra, Mr. Surendra Mohan. [North Bengal Municipal (General).]

Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar. [Burdwan Central (General).]

Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova. [Dacca (General) Women.]

Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra. [Midnapore South-West (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal. [Mymensingh West (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari. [Burdwan North-West (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra. [Faridpur (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra. [Tippera (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath. [Bakarganj North-East (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad. [Midnapore Central (General).]

Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi. [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]

Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md. [Chittagong South Centra (Muhammadan).]

Maqbul Hosain, Mr. [Tippera North-East (Muhammadan).]

Marindin, Mr. F. J. [Chittagong Division (European).]

Masud Ali Khan Panni, Maulvi. [Tangail South (Muhammadan).]

Miles, Mr. C. W. (Indian Tea Association.)

Millar, Mr. C. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]

Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur. [Bogra West (Muhammadan).]

Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md. [Meherpur (Muhammadan).]

Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad. (Calcutta University.)

Morgan, Mr. G., C.B.E. [Presidency Division (European).]

Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi. [Rajshahi Central (Muhammadan).]

Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md. [Bhola North (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Afzal, Khan Sahib Maulvi Syed. [Pirojpur North (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi. [Noakhali North (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi. [Bogra South (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Israil, Maulvi. [Kishoreganj South (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed. [Bankura (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Solaiman, Khan Sahib Maulvi. [Barrackpore Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan. (Hooghly North-East.)

Mukherjee, Mr. B. [Colliery (Coal Mines) (Labour).]

Mukherji, Dr. H. C. [Calcutta *cum* Presidency Division (Indian Christian).]

Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra. [Birbhum (General).]

Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behari. [Khulna (General).]

Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary. [Howrah (General).]

Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh. [Bankura West (General).]

Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Darjeeling (Muhammadan).]

Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed. [Bagerhat (Muhammadan).]

Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi. [Brahmanbaria North (Muhammadan).]

## N

Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar, (Presidency Landholders.)

Nasarullah, Nawabzada K., Parliamentary Secretary. [Brahmanbaria South (Muhammadan).]

Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East (General).]

Nausher Ali, Mr. Syed. [Jessore Sadar (Muhammadan).]

Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]

Nooruddin, Mr. K. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Norton, Mr. H. R. (Calcutta Trades Association.)

## P

Pain, Mr. Barada Prosanna. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (General).]

Patton, Mr. W. C. [Darjeeling (European).]

Paul, Sir Hari Sankar. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)

Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan. [Malda (General).]

## R

Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L. [Rajshahi Central (Muhammadan).]

Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General).]

Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Maulvi. [Bogra East (Muhammadan).]

Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Tippera West (Muhammadan).]

Ray Choudhury, Mr. Birendra Kishore. [Mymensingh East (General).]

Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr. [Dacca South Central (Muhammadan).]

Roy, Mr. Patiram. [Khulna (General).]

Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh. (Burdwan Landholders.)

Roy, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar. (Rajshahi Landholders.)

Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra. [Mymensingh West (General).]

Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy. [Dacca East (General).]

Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna. [Bankura East (General).]

Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar. [Dacca West (General).]

Roy, Mr. Kishori Pati. [Jhargram *cum* Ghatal (General).]

Roy, Rai Bahadur Kshirod Chandra. (Chittagong Landholders.)

Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath. [Howrah (General).]

S

Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr. [Bakarganj South (Muhammadan).]

Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji. [Rangpur North (Muhammadan).]

Saheb Alam, Mr. Syed. [Dacca Central (Muhammadan).]

Salim, Mr. S. A. [Narayanganj North (Muhammadan).]

Sanaullah, Dr. [Chittagong North-East (Muhammadan).]

Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha. [Presidency Division Municipal (General).]

Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar. [Murshidabad (General).]

Sarker, Babu Madhusudan. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (General).]

Sarker, the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)

Sassoon, Mr. R. M. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra. [Dacca East (General).]

Sen, Babu Nagendra Nath. [Khulna (General).]

Sen, Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East (General).]

Serajul Islam, Mr. [Bongaon (Muhammadan).]

Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E., Parliamentary Secretary. [Narayanganj South (Muhammadan).]

Shahedali, Mr. [Matlabbazar (Muhammadan).]

Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Kusthia (Muhammadan).]

Shamsuddin Ahmed Khandkar, Mr. [Gopalganj (Muhammadan).]

Shamsul Huda, Maulana. [Mymensingh South (Muhammadan).]

Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath. [Rangpur (General).]

Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan. [Bankura West (General).]

Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda. [Bengal Dooars (Western) Tea Garden Labour.]

Smith, Mr. H Brabant. [Rajshahi Division (European).]

Steven, Mr. J. W. R. [Dacca (European).]

Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. [24-Parganas Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar. [Noakhali (General).]

T

Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr. [Faridpur West (Muhammadan).]

Tapuriah, Rai Bahadur Moongtu Lall. (Marwari Association.)

Thakur, Mr. Promatha Ranjan. [Faridpur (General).]

Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji. [Bhola South (Muhammadan).]

## W

Waliur Rahman, Maulvi. [Jessore East (Muhammadan).]

Walker, Mr. W. A. M. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)

Warren, Mr. P. F. S. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Whitehead, Mr. R. B. (Indian Mining Association.)

Wordsworth, Mr. W. C. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

## Y

Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr. [Faridpur East (Muhammadan).]

Yusuf Mirza. [24-Parganas Central (Muhammadan).]

## Z

Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi. [Malda North (Muhammadan).]

Zaman, Mr. A. M. A. [Hooghly *cum* Serampore (Registered Factories) Labour.]

# THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

**(Official Report of the Sixth Session.)**

**Volume LV—No. 2.**

## Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 5th December, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

### Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 212 members.

## STARRED QUESTIONS

**(to which oral answers were given)**

### Agricultural loan and gratuitous relief in Jessore.

*21. **Khan Bahadur Maulana AHMED ALI ENAYETPURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the period from June, 1938, to October, 1939

(*i*) the amount granted by Government as agricultural loan and gratuitous relief separately to each subdivision and union of the Jessore district; and

(*ii*) the number of the benefited persons of each union?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the distress is still prevailing in the district and the people are in need of help?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of granting a further amount to the district?

**MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy):** (*a*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*b*) Distress in an acute form does not at present prevail anywhere in the district.

(*c*) Further amounts will be sanctioned if and when necessary.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** With reference to reply (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister make further enquiries to ascertain whether there is really acute distress in the Narail and Magura subdivisions of the Jessore district?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** No, Sir. Government do not consider it necessary.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Does the Hon'ble Minister remember the fact that two men in the Narail subdivision died of starvation and the Hon'ble Minister assured this House that he would make necessary enquiries in this matter?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Mr. Speaker, how does that question arise out of this?

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** That will go to prove that there is still acute distress in that area.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You said that some people died of starvation some months back.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** And the distress is still present there.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You had better put another question

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire at the police-station Narail, where a few months back two people died of starvation, whether there is still acute distress in that area or not?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I take it that the point of information is whether there is still acute distress or not and my answer is "No".

**Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় উত্তরে বলেছেন—জেলায় কোন থানেই acute distress নাই। এটা কি তিনি নিজে enquiry কোরে জেনে বোলছেন না District Officer-এর লেখা অনুসারে বোলছেন?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA CHOSE:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that very recently the District Magistrate of Jessore openly declared that there was still distress in different parts of the district of Jessore?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** There is a difference between acute distress and distress.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA CHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister explain what is the difference between acute distress and distress?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise. In one case there is an adjective and in another not! (Laughter.)

### Contributions of India Government to Bengal.

*22. **Maulvi SERAJUL ISLAM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state whether any contributions have been made by the Central Government to the Province of Bengal in the years 1937, 1938 and 1939?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the total amount;

(*ii*) how much of it is loan contribution;

(*iii*) how much thereof is gratuitous contribution;

(*iv*) under what different funds such contributions have been made;

(*v*) how the amount has been distributed in the different districts (to be shown separately district by district); and

(*vi*) how the contributed quotas have been spent by the different District Officers, i.e., under what heads of expenditure (to be shown separately, district by district)?

**MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker):** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) Rs. 19,82,484.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) The entire amount is gratuitous contribution.

(*iv*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*v*) and (*vi*) The information is not readily available and will take a good deal of time to collect.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** With reference to answer (*b*) (*vi*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any policy was followed with regard to the expenditure of those quotas received from the Central Government?

**The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER:** Yes, the policy was approved by the Central Government also

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any specific instructions were given to the District Officers with regard to the expenditure of the amount received by them and concerning those quotas?

**The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER:** The Government of India communications have been circulated to the District Magistrates.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what precise items were those amounts to be spent in those particular districts?

**The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER:** Contributions for play-grounds, removal of water scarcity, establishment of dispensaries and a few other items.

**Prohibition of public meetings of recognised Associations of Government servants.**

***23. Maulvi ABDUL HAMID SHAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that recently, by a circular, public meetings of recognised Associations of Government servants have been strictly prohibited in this Province?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

**The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER:** (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

**Agricultural loan and gratuituous relief in flood-affected areas in Chittagong.**

***24. Dr. SANAULLAH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total amount of—

(*a*) gratuitous relief, and

(*b*) agricultural loan,

distributed in each thana of the district of Chittagong to mitigate the sufferings of the people caused by the last flood?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. 24.*

| Names of thanas. | Amount distributed as | |
|---|---|---|
| | Gratuitous relief. | Agricultural loan. |
| | Rs. | Rs. |
| Fatikchari .. .. | .. | 2,766 |
| Raozan .. .. | 2,500 | 6,734 |
| Hathazari .. .. | 1,000 | 9,690 |
| Rangunia .. .. | 500 | 310 |
| Satkania .. .. | .. | 8,672 |
| Banskhali .. .. | 2,000 | 23,690 |
| Patiya .. .. | 650 | 5,638 |
| Anwara .. .. | .. | 8,000 |
| Boalkhali .. .. | 350 | 4,000 |
| Cox's Bazar .. .. | 2,300 | 35,750 |
| Kutubdia .. .. | 2,000 | 15,000 |
| Total .. | 11,300 | 1,20,250 |

**Levy of abwabs in certain Wards Estates in Dinajpur.**

*25. **Babu SHYAMA PROSAD BARMAN:** (*a*) With reference to the answer to starred question No. 140 of the 8th March, 1939, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether the investigation has been completed?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the result thereof?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Four *tahsildars* in Bahin Wards Estate and one *tahsildar* in Haripur Wards Estate were found guilty of illegal exaction, and all of them have been discharged from service.

**Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দয়া ক'রে বোল্‌বেন কি এই যে সমস্ত illegal exactions হোয়েছে, এবং যার ফলে তাদের discharge ক'রে দেওয়া হোয়েছে,—যাদের কাছ থেকে illegal exaction করা হোয়েছে তাদের against এ কোন কিছু করা হোয়েছে কি না?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I ask for notice.

**Appointment of Wakf Commissioner, Bengal.**

*26. **Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education (*Wakf*) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of persons who applied for the post of *Wakf* Commissioner, Bengal;

(*ii*) what is the special reason for appointing the present incumbent in preference to the other applicants;

(*iii*) whether there was any public advertisement inviting applications for the post; and

(*iv*) whether the Public Service Commission was consulted in the matter of the appointment?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing:—

(*i*) the age;

(*ii*) present salary; and

(*iii*) the amount of pension drawn by the present incumbent?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the appointment has been made temporarily?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the period for which he has been so appointed?

**MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq):** (*a*) (*i*), (*iii*) and (*iv*) The incumbent of the post of *Wakf* Commissioner is not remunerated from the Provincial Revenues, nor is the post included in one of the Civil Services of the Province. The appointment is made by the Provincial Government under the provisions of the *Wakf* Act, and is thus outside the purview of the Public Service Commission. Applications were not, therefore, invited.

(*ii*) He was considered to be the most suitable person to occupy the post.

(*b*) (*i*) He was born in June, 1876

(*ii*) Rs 1,500 a month

(*iii*) Rs 9,500 per annum.

(*c*) and (*d*) Khan Bahadur M. A. Momin, the present incumbent, has been appointed until further orders

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what procedure Government adopted to ensure that the selection of the candidate is made properly and suitable applications obtained by Government?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ:** A Minister acts in his individual judgment and in his discretion.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the whole Cabinet acts in its individual judgment or the Hon'ble Minister concerned only?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ:** The Hon'ble Minister concerned.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Who is the Minister concerned?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ:** In this particular case my humble self.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Government of India Act does not provide any individual judgment for any Minister?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ:** If a man has got any individual judgment, he must exercise his judgment. (Laughter.)

**Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any bar to advertising the post of the Wakf Commissioner?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ:** Practically all prominent men who are suitable for the post are known to us and it was therefore not necessary to advertise.

**Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR:** My question has not been answered.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** It is quite clear that there is no bar.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the considerations that influence or influenced the individual judgment of the Minister concerned in this case?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am afraid that question does not arise. Individual judgment is individual judgment.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** There must be reasons. That is why we have the privilege of enquiring who is the Minister concerned.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You may ask another question.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Was it done whimsically?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ:** No sane man acts whimsically. It is expected that a man who has got the responsibility of making such an appointment will act according to some sound principle.

**Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if the particular gentleman is considered a public servant?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ:** I submit, Sir, that this question does not arise out of the main question.

**Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR:** Why? May I know, Sir, why it does not arise?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That is a quite different thing: it is quite a contentious matter.

**Introduction of the system of ballot voting in Municipal and Union Board elections.**

*27. **Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** With reference to the reply given on the 20th February, 1939, to starred question No. 34, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state the decision at which the Government have arrived in the matter of the introduction of the system of ballot voting in—

(*a*) Municipal; and

(*b*) Union Board elections?

**MINISTER in charge of the LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca):** The views of the Divisional Commissioners together with the views of the local officers and local bodies which were referred to in the Government reply to the previous question asked by the hon'ble member have been since received and are now under examination by a Special Officer who has been appointed to examine this question together with other allied matters relating to local self-government. As soon as the Special Officer submits his report, the matter will be finally considered by Government with a view to reaching a final decision.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state by what time the final decision is likely to be reached?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question has been answered, I believe, a hundred times in this House.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** However, Sir, let it be recorded that it was so answered a hundred times.

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** Within as short a time as possible.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** With regard to the Special Officer's report, has he under consideration the specific question of having elections as desired by the questioner?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** Yes, Sir, he will consider all these matters and submit a report on them.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** My question was whether this specific matter had been referred to the Special Officer.

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** Yes.

### Dredging of the Brahmaputra in Mymensingh.

*28. **Mr. BIRENDRA KISHORE RAY CHOUDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state what steps, if any, have the Government taken during the last one year for dredging the Brahmaputra river in the Mymensingh district?

(*b*) Is there any likelihood of the dredging work being undertaken in the near future?

**MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbadar):** (*a*) No arrangement for dredging the river during the year in question was made as it was considered that dredging would not improve it. Estimates for training the river by means of *bandalling* have recently been approved.

(*b*) No.

**Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন এই এক বৎসর সেচ বিভাগ ময়মনসিংহে কি কাজ করেছেন?

**Mr. NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:** A *byapak* or a comprehensive scheme?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** Yes, we are considering a comprehensive scheme for the improvement of the river. A few months back the Director of Public Health and the Chief Engineer visited the area with a view to find out if there was any solution to this baffling problem, i.e., of diverting at least a portion of the water to the old bed of the Brahmaputra. Secondly we have recently opened a departmental division in Mymensingh with a view to collect data for ultimately formulating schemes for the improvement of the waterways of that part of the province including this river. Thirdly, if the Hydraulic laboratory which we have in contemplation is established then this will be one of the first items which will be tackled by it.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state why there is no likelihood of the dredging work being undertaken in the near future although he says that estimates for training the river by means of bandalling have recently been approved?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** Because dredging is not considered by experts to be the remedy for improving the condition of the river.

**Number of appointments made by Government in the different grades of services on salaries ranging from Rs. 30 per month upwards.**

*29. **Maulvi SERAJUL ISLAM:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the years 1937, 1938 and up to June, 1939

(*a*) the number of appointments made by Government in the different departments in the different grades of services on salaries ranging from Rs 30 per month upwards;

(*b*) the number of them appointed by direct recruitments;

(*c*) the number of them appointed by promotions;

(*d*) the number of the direct recruitments that have gone to the inhabitants of the different districts of the Province (to be shown separately, district by district), and

(*e*) the number of such appointments that have gone to—

(*i*) Caste Hindus, and

(*ii*) Scheduled Castes, and

(*iii*) Muslims?

**The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER:** The honourable member is referred to question No 58 (starred) of the last session which is identical with the present question except that I am now asked to collect information for a further period of six months. The collection of this further information will involve an amount of time and labour that I do not consider will be justified.

**Certificate Procedure in Western Duars Khas Mahal.**

*30. **Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Certificate Procedure has recently been reintroduced in the Western Duars Government *khas mahal* for realisation of arrear rents?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether the Government have realised arrear rents in that *khas mahal* through Civil Courts?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

**Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether the certificate procedure has been introduced in other districts as has been introduced in the Western Duars Government khas mahal for realisation of arrear rents?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** No, Sir.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what special reason there is for reintroducing the certificate procedure in this area?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Bad collection

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what were the bad collections due to?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** The "no-payment" mentality of the tenantry.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state with reference to the amount due from the tenants in this area what was the average income during the last year when the arrears fell due?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** The income was very good because there was neither any drought nor failure of crops due to flood or any other reason but still the tenants did not pay.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Has the Hon'ble Minister made any investigation whatsoever with regard to the yearly value of the yield of this area, vis-a-vis the amount due from them on account of Government revenue?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I may state for the information of the honourable member that the rent level is extremely low in this area; in fact it is the lowest in Bengal while the yield is comparatively high; but still the arrears went on mounting up.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Sir, my question has not been answered.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Well, so far as the purpose of your main question is concerned it has been answered. The answer is quite specific, so far as the question of collection is concerned. You cannot ask a theoretical question.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** I asked whether the Hon'ble Minister had made any investigation in order to ascertain the value of the yield of the crop in that area with reference to the demand of revenue made from the tenants in that area.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am afraid that question does not arise.

**Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA :** মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় জানেন, এই crisisএর পূর্ব পর্যন্ত Western Duarsএর প্রজারা খাজনা ঠিকভাবে দিয়ে আসছিলো এবং প্রায় একশো টাকায় একশো টাকাই খাজনা তারা দিয়েছে, এবং গত ১৯৩৫-৩৬ সালে যখন খাজনা শতকরা পঁয়তাল্লিশ টাকা হারে বৃদ্ধি হয়, তখন থেকে খাজনা বাকি পোড়েছে।

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** It is a fact that the tenants used to pay rent regularly in the past but Government do not admit that the accumulation of arrears was due to enhancement of rent, because in spite of the enhancement the rent level in Jalpaiguri Duars is very low

**Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA :** মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় জানেন কি খাজনা বৃদ্ধির সময় থেকে আজ পর্যন্ত প্রায় ছয় হাজার জোৎ নীলাম হোয়েছে এই খাজনা বাকী থাকার দরুন।

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I had occasion to enquire into the whole question and I was satisfied that the enhancement of rent had practically nothing to do with the accumulation of arrears and the sale of jotes in Jalpaiguri.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether it is a fact that 2,000 holdings were sold off at an auction on account of rent arrears?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I must say, first of all, that 2,000 holdings were not sold off, and if they were sold they were sold probably in the course of a number of years and not during the last year. My friend might be interested to know that the

total number of jotes in Jalpaiguri is over 16,000, so if 2,000 jotes were at all sold in Jalpaiguri for arrears of rent in any one year they constitute a very small portion of the total number of jotes. The proportion will show that the enhancement of rent was in no way responsible for the accumulation of arrears. Therefore the inference which my hon'ble friend wants to draw that because of the enhancement the tenants were not in a position to pay and that is why holdings were being sold off; that is not a fact.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether he is aware that ¼th of the tenure-holders in Jalpaiguri were thrown out of land on account of the enhancement of rent?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** No, Sir.

**Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় জানেন কি গত সেসনে তিনি জানিয়েছিলেন যে enhancement of rent থেকে আরম্ভ কোরে অর্থাৎ ১৯৩৫-৩৬ সালে যে খাজনা বৃদ্ধি হোয়েছে তা থেকে আরম্ভ কোরে গত সেসন পর্য্যন্ত ১৯৩৬টা জোত হাত বদল হোয়েছে ?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I have not got the figures before me at present, but speaking from memory, I may repeat that I was perfectly satisfied that the sales had nothing to do with the enhancement of rent.

### State-aid to industries against foreign competition.

*31. **Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government have taken or contemplate to take to promote such industries as were unable to face or make headway through foreign competition before the War but in respect of which the chances of such competition have been eliminated or much reduced by the War?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** I have already set up the Bengal Industrial Survey Committee to investigate the problem of the development of industries in the Province and to recommend suitable measures for the establishment and development of industries of national or economic importance including "key" industries. The Committee will doubtless make their recommendations in the light of the new situation created by the War. They have

already submitted two interim reports regarding (1) a scheme for marketing of cottage industry products, and (2) a scheme for electrical development in the Province and suitable action is being taken thereon. Every endeavour will be made to implement other recommendations of the Committee as soon as they are received.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** With reference to the second scheme for electrical development in the province, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if that scheme includes any proposal for starting electrical industries as the question seeks to know?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** I should like to state that the electrical scheme is being pushed through by the Commerce Department and I have forwarded the report of the Industrial Survey Committee to that department.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that in that scheme so far there is no proposal for starting any electrical industry in this province?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** Unfortunately the honourable member has put this question without knowing that unless there is the question of electrification of Bengal, how can the honourable member expect electrical industries being started?

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that already a large quantity of electrical goods are imported from foreign countries to cater to the already existing electrical supply Companies and the consumers of electricity in this province?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** May I wish to know whether he means supply of electricity or of electrical goods?

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Electrical goods. The questioner evidently wants assurances about electrical industries and not supply of energy. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister if this scheme referred to by him has anything to do with the manufacture of electrical goods or appliances?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** No.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what suitable action has been taken in respect of the two schemes about which a report has been received?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** I would ask the honourable member to wait till the budget session to see what action will be taken.

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** What were the points of reference to that Committee?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the point of financing the rural industries has been referred to this Committee?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** I have said that every matter connected with this industry has been referred to the Committee.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Do I understand the Hon'ble Minister to say that he is waiting to know what suitable action has been taken?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** I am not waiting for that, but I wish to ask you to wait until I present the industries budget.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is cognizant of any suitable action in respect of the schemes? Why does he not enlighten the House about it so that we may not live in expectation?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** All these schemes have been submitted before the Cabinet and until they are passed by the Cabinet I cannot say what schemes will be accepted by Government.

### Release of thirty-four terrorist prisoners.

*32. **Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether Government have recently announced that 34 terrorist prisoners are not to be released now?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the cases of these 34 prisoners were placed before the Advisory Committee?

(*c*) If so—

(*i*) what was the decision of the members thereof; and

(*ii*) was not the decision of the majority accepted?

(*d*) (*i*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these 34 prisoners were asked to show cause as to their claims for release; and

(*ii*) whether any explanations were received from any of them?

**MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin):** (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) (*ii*) Yes.

(*c*) (*i*) The Committee recommended that no clemency should be shown to 33 of them

(*d*) (*i*) and (*ii*) No.

### Agricultural loans advanced in Presidency Division.

***33. Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that he met M L A.'s of the Presidency Division at a Conference at the Writers' Buildings during the flood of 1938;

(*ii*) that one of the terms settled at that conference was that agricultural loans advanced or to be advanced would not be collected before the debtors were in a position to pay easily;

(*iii*) that no collection would be made before the crop of 1940; and

(*iv*) that such assurances were also given by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister during his tour round the flood-stricken areas of Murshidabad and Nadia in August, 1938?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware—

(*i*) that officers at Murshidabad are making and trying to make collections of agricultural loans since October, 1939; and

(*ii*) that a large number of debtors are intimating their inability to pay at the present time?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative what steps, if any, are the Government proposing to take in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) (*i*) and (*iv*) Yes.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) What was stated was that no realisation would be made before the harvest of 1940.

(*b*) (*i*) Collections are made only in areas which have not been affected by the floods of 1939 and in which there have been good harvests of *bhadoi* and jute crops. No coercive measures have been adopted for recovery of agricultural loans. The borrowers are simply informed that officers will be present on specified dates at specified centres to receive repayment of the loans. The Officer collects such amounts as are voluntarily paid by the borrowers. The cultivators are getting good prices for their jute this year. Many of them are making voluntary payments of portions of their dues. It is in the interest of the debtors that they are encouraged to repay as much of these short-term loans as they can afford with a view to reduce their indebtedness and to avoid the payment of interest.

(*ii*) Only a few petitions were received. Those who have expressed their inability to pay are not compelled to pay

(*c*) Does not arise.

**Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any step was taken by Government to acquaint the debtors with the Government attitude as communicated in this answer?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Sir, the very fact that coercive measures are not being taken is, I think, sufficient. The borrowers know that if they pay voluntarily they are welcome to do so, but Government are not going to adopt any coercive measures at present.

**Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** In view of the answer given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of publishing the substances of this answer in the affected area?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** No, because Government do not propose to discourage payment. On the other hand, they want to encourage payment. They want that the borrowers should come forward and pay, but if I publish the answers, as suggested by the honourable member, its effect will be to ask the borrowers not to pay.

### Mitigation of distress in flood-stricken areas in Bogra.

*34. **Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware that due to excessive rains towards the end of the last monsoon several villages in police-station Adamdighi were flooded and standing crops considerably damaged?

(*b*) If so, what steps, if any, does he propose to take to mitigate the loss suffered by the agriculturists?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

**Khan Bahadur MOHAMMAD ALI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the District Magistrate of Bogra deputed the Subdivisional Officer to make enquiries into the damages to crops and that that Subdivisional Officer reported that there was damage in that area?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** That is not our information. That may be the private information of the Chairman of the Bogra District Board.

**Khan Bahadur MOHAMMAD ALI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that reports about damages were published in all Calcutta newspapers?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** We have long ceased to go entirely by newspapers reports.

### Holwell Monument in Calcutta.

*35. **Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Political) Department aware—

(*i*) that there is a feeling in Bengal against the existence of the Holwell Monument in Calcutta; and

(*ii*) that the story of the "Black Hole Tragedy" has been disputed by some historians as having no foundation on truth?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of taking necessary steps for the early removal of the Holwell Monument from the face of Bengal?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** (*a*)(*i*) Yes, but I am not aware that it is very widespread.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) No

**Mr. ABDUL LATIF BISWAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why he does not consider the desirability of taking necessary steps to remove the Holwell Monument and what stands in the way of its removal?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** If I am to accept the version of the honourable member that the story of Black Hole tragedy is not correct, then it follows that the Holwell Monument is an indication of the success of Seraj-ud-Dowlla in capturing Calcutta.

**Mr. P. BANERJI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that several young men actually started breaking the monument with hammer and chisels a few years ago and were arrested?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** They were misguided.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the basis on which he suggests that the Holwell Monument is a monument erected to commemorate the victory of Calcutta by Seraj-ud-Dowlla and, if so, will he be prepared to have the Holwell Monument removed and a memorial in the name of Seraj-ud-Dowlla erected in its place?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** With reference to reply (*a*) (*ii*), viz., "yes" admitting that there is no foundation in the story behind the "Black Hole tragedy",—will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what justification he has got in that case to perpetuate the memory still now?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order, order. I think you have not read the question. You are assuming a certain opinion of the Hon'ble Minister, but that is not the question. The question is whether some historians have disputed it.

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** In view of his answer to question (*a*)(*i*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in view of the feeling against this monument existing in this province Government have enquired about the soundness of the contention of the historians referred to in question (*a*) (*ii*)?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Sir, in view of my answer I do not think that feeling will exist any longer.

**Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that recently Seraj-ud-Dowlla Day was observed all over Bengal and meetings were held demanding that the monument should be removed and that in his own place, viz., at Dacca, a Muslim young man openly declared that he would go on hunger-strike unless it was demolished?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The second part of the question does not arise.

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. I would refer the honourable member to my reply to the supplementary question put by the member from Faridpur.

**Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** In view of the Hon'ble Minister's answer that it is to indicate the success of Seraj-ud-Dowlla that the monument was erected, has the Hon'ble Minister considered the desirability of setting up a tablet there to that effect?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** That question, Sir, does not arise as the monument itself is an indication of the success of Seraj-ud-Dowlla.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that Mr. Holwell has been described by historians as a monstrous liar and a scandal-monger—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

Now I shall adjourn the House for prayer and after that I shall take up the other questions.

The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes

*(After adjournment.)*

**Ejectment of tenants of chandina rights by landlords.**

***37. Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that the landlords eject the tenants of *chandina* rights who have been enjoying the usufructs of the lands for years; and

(*ii*) that a feeling exists amongst the public over the question of ejectment?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what steps does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) (*i*) Yes, if terms of the contract between the lessor and lessee so permit and the lessor desires to terminate the contract.

(*ii*) Yes, in certain quarters.

(*b*) Government appointed a Committee to enquire into the problem and are awaiting its final recommendations.

**Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি অনুগ্রহ কোরে বোলবেন এই কমিটি কবে সৃষ্টি হোয়েছে এবং তার কটা মিটিং এ পর্য্যন্ত হয়েছে ?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** The Committee was appointed so far as I remember in November, 1938, and the Committee had several sittings. They have not yet come to any decision. The Committee wanted certain facts. The facts were collected and placed before the Committee. They have come to some provisional decisions on certain points and it will take some time to complete the work.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** On a point of order, Sir. Is this question on the name of a member who has been declared insolvent and of whom you have made an enquiry?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** No, it is not the same person. You ought to know that.

**Khan Sahib Maulvi AMINULLAH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the final recommendations of the Committee will be available?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Sir, it is very difficult for me to state when the final recommendations will be available, because I am neither a member of the Committee, nor have I anything to do with it; but I hope the Committee will complete its work very shortly.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Pending the final decisions of the Committee and the Government, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of passing an interim ordinance preventing the transfer of these lands?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** It cannot be done so long as the House is in session.

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** No ordinance can be passed when the House is in session.

**Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the tenants of the Chandina lands are ejected when the contract is silent with regard to any period?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** That is the allegation at least from certain quarters.

**Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have collected any figures up till now available of the ejectments which have been made up to this time?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Yes, Sir, we have.

**Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the actual figure of the ejectments of these tenants from Chandina lands?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I ask for notice. The figures are not handy at present.

**Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that apart from the contract, the owner of the Chandina lands are liable to be ejected under the present law?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I cannot interpret the law here, but probably that is so.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether disputes with regard to the uncontractual obligations on the part of the tenant can be referred to the Debt Settlement Boards?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that a very large number of tenants of the Chandina lands had been ejected?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** No, Sir, that is not a fact. So far as our information goes, the number is by no means very large.

**Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that even now many houses are being demolished in execution of decrees against Chandina tenants?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** It must be so, Sir.

**Fall in price of paddy due to import of rice from Burma.**

***38. Mr. P. BANERJI:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department been drawn to the low price of paddy, which is even lower than the cost of cultivation thereof, due to import of rice from Burma?

(*b*) If so, will he be pleased to state what action he proposes to take in the matter?

**MINISTER in charge of the ACRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan):** (*a*) and (*b*) Without accepting either of the implications contained in clause (*a*) of this question, I may say that the whole question of the regulation of the price of paddy and the manner in which that very difficult matter should be approached is now under my consideration on the basis of the report of the Paddy and Rice Committee, a copy of which recently received, is placed on the Library table.

**Mr. P. BANERJI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state by what time the consideration will be finished?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** As soon as possible.

**Securities demanded, realised and confiscated from newspapers, under present Reforms.**

*39. **Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to lay on the table an up-to-date statement since the advent of the Provincial Autonomy, showing separately, the amounts of securities demanded, realised and confiscated by the Government of Bengal from newspapers, periodicals and printing presses together with their names and addresses?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** An up-to-date statement (in two parts) is placed on the Library table.

**Forfeiture of securities of presses and newspapers.**

*40. **Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state the names of the presses and newspapers that—

(*a*) had their securities forfeited as wholly or partially; and

(*b*) were called upon to furnish security since January, 1937, mentioning the amount of security involved in each of the aforesaid cases?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** A statement is placed on the Library table.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the largest amount of securities were demanded only from such presses and journals as—

(1) Hindusthan Standard—Rs. 3,000,

(2) The Amrita Bazar Patrika—Rs. 3,000,

(3) Dainik Basumati—Rs. 3,000,

(4) Basumati Electric Machine Press—Rs. 3,000,

(5) Advance—Rs. 2,000, and

(6) Sadhana Press—Rs. 2,000?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** First of all they are the most important papers with large circulations, and secondly their articles were more virulent in their attack.

**Proceedings against journals and presses.**

*41. **Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Political) Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the period from 1st April, 1937, to the latest available date, the names and numbers of the journals and the presses of which—

(*i*) the editor or keeper was proceeded against in court of law at the instance of Government or any officer of Government;

(*ii*) the editor, owner or keeper had been administered warnings by the Press Officer or by any other officer of Government;

(*iii*) fresh securities or enhanced securities under the Press Act or any other Act were demanded; and

(*iv*) a part or the whole of the securities deposited were forfeited to Government?

(*b*) What is the respective number of journals and printing presses under each of the above groups (*i*) to (*iv*) which were owned or managed by—

(*i*) Hindus;

(*ii*) Muslims;

(*iii*) Europeans; and

(*iv*) Others?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** (*a*) A statement in respect of each of the four items is placed on the Library table, and (*b*) a statement is placed on the table.

*Statement referred to in the reply to clause (b) of starred question No. 41.*

| | | Groups shown in (*a*). | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | (*i*) | (*ii*) | (*iii*) | (*iv*) |
| (*b*) (*i*) Hindus | .. | 7 | 63 | 31 | 2 |
| (*ii*) Muslims | .. | 1 | 25 | 5 | .. |
| (*iii*) Europeans | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| (*iv*) Others | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. |
| Total | .. | 10 | 89 | 37 | 2 |

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** With reference to question No. 1 (*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state of the 37 cases from which securities were demanded, how many could not deposit securities?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I ask for notice, Sir.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Is it a fact that as many as 23 of these 37 could not furnish securities, and therefore went out of existence?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Sir, without notice, I will not be able to answer the question.

**Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the amount of fresh securities asked for in these 37 cases—the total amount?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I would request the honourable member to add up the amounts that have been put down in that table. Then he will find the total.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** With reference to the warnings given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if these are the warnings by the Press Officer officially kept on record, or do these include all kinds of informal and formal warnings?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I believe they are mostly formal warnings.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any record is kept of informal warnings?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** As a matter of fact on the files I have seen informal warnings are noted.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that recently a practice has developed of the Press Officer either telephoning or sending for the Editors concerned and advising them on certain future danger not to publish certain news?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I do not think "not to publish news", but they are advising them on the lines which they should adopt in avoiding news which are likely to come under censorship. They are merely advised that these are the principles behind the censorship and are asked to keep to them as far as possible.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any warnings are given in issuing such advice, that is to say, in case they do not act up to that advice with reference to a particular news, they will be put to trouble?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I do not think it is in case of a particular news, but particular kind of news. The advice is a friendly warning. If any paper is repeatedly disregarding the warnings, then it is very likely that in one or two cases the Press Officer may say that in future he would give formal warnings and then take action.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that last week a certain news about a high police officer having beaten a constable and that constable remaining in the hospital was suppressed by the Press Officer and a warning was given to the editor concerned?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I am not aware of it.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** With reference to answer (*b*) (*ii*), viz., Muslims—1, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the offence for which this Muslim paper, "Rozana Hind", was required to deposit security?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I think it published objectionable articles.

**Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that due to press censorship, all the labour papers had to close down?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I don't think it is correct. All the labour papers have not closed down.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Question 36.

**Recruitment of Sub-Inspectors of Calcutta Police.**

***36. Mr. RASHIK LAL BISWAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Sub-Inspectors of Calcutta Police have been recruited this year;

(*b*) how many of them are—

(*i*) Muslims,

(*ii*) Caste Hindus, and

(*iii*) Scheduled Castes;

(*c*) how many from the Scheduled Castes applied for the posts;

(*d*) how many of them were found to be fit by medical examination; and

(*e*) how many of them were graduates?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** (*a*) 13, *viz.*, 4 from the department and 9 from outside.

(*b*) (*i*) 6 including 1 recruited from the department.

(*ii*) 6 including 3 recruited from the department.

(*iii*) 1.

(*c*) 45.

(*d*) 3.

(*e*) 45.

**Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, should not the Hon'ble Minister apologise to you for not being present in the House in due time?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I do not think that is necessary.

**Mr. MONOMOHAN DAS:** In view of answers (*a*) and (*b*)(*iii*) that out of 13 posts only 1 has been filled up by a scheduled caste candidate, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the service ratio for the scheduled castes has not been observed?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** May I ask what is the service ratio for the scheduled castes?

**Mr. MONOMOHAN DAS:** 15 per cent

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Then it has almost been observed

**Mr. MONOMOHAN DAS:** Out of 13 posts if one appointment is made from the scheduled castes, then what is the proportion?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That is a matter of calculation

**Babu PREMHARI BARMA:** In view of answer (*d*) that out of 45 candidates who applied for the posts only 3 were found qualified on medical examination, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what made them unfit?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** May I explain the position?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise. It is for the Medical Board to answer and not for the Hon'ble Minister.

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Let me explain the position and it will, I think, stop all the supplementary questions.

As far as the question of recruitment and the percentage of the scheduled caste community is concerned, I would like to draw the

attention of the honourable members to the fact that actually for direct recruitment only 9 posts were vacant, 4 were for departmental promotion, and as far as the scheduled castes are concerned, the question of making up was not there. Therefore actually out of 9 appointments by direct recruitment, they have got one.

**Babu PREMHARI BARMA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many Caste Hindu applicants were there and how many of them were found fit on medical examination?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I ask for notice.

**Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বোলবেন কি Scheduled Castes candidate একজন যে নেওয়া হোয়েছে তার নাম কি ?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that taking advantage of the loophole that unless and until suitable candidates from scheduled castes are available under the declaration of the service ratio, the appointing authority will always deprive the scheduled caste candidates of their proper share?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That is a general question. That does not arise out of this.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

**(answers to which were laid on the table)**

### Government help to cultivators in economic distress.

**8. Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, district by district, for this official year up to date—

(*a*) the amount sanctioned by Government to help the cultivators in their economic distress as—

(*i*) Gratuitous relief, and

(*ii*) Agricultural loan;

(*b*) the amount granted to the district of Jessore; and

(*c*) the amount spent up to date in different subdivisions of that district?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the table.

(c)

| | | Agricultural loans. | Gratuitous relief. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Rs. | Rs. |
| Bongaon | ... | 22,700 | 500 |
| Jhenidah | ... | 22,300 | 300 |
| Magura | ... | 16,750 | 300 |
| Narail | ... | 27,500 | 800 |
| Sadar | ... | 10,750 | 400 |
| **Total** | **...** | **1,00,000** | **2,300** |

*Statement referred to in the answer to clauses (a) and (b) of unstarred question No. 8.*

| | Name of the district. | | Amount sanctioned for gratuitous relief. | Amount sanctioned for distribution as agricultural loans. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Rs. | Rs. |
| 1. | Bankura | .. .. | 15,700 | 4,00,000 |
| 2. | Birbhum | .. .. | .. | 15,000 |
| 3. | Burdwan | .. .. | 2,000 | 1,31,200 |
| 4. | Hooghly | .. .. | 14,500 | 1,45,000 |
| 5. | Howrah | .. .. | 6,000 | 30,000 |
| 6. | Midnapore | .. .. | 10,000 | 2,91,500 |
| 7. | 24-Parganas | .. .. | .. | 98,000 |
| 8. | Jessore | .. .. | 5,000 | 1,05,000 |
| 9. | Nadia | .. .. | 5,800 | 1,36,000 |
| 10. | Khulna | .. .. | .. | 1,30,000 |
| 11. | Murshidabad | .. .. | 5,000 | 1,85,000 |
| 12. | Dacca | .. .. | 2,500 | 1,20,000 |
| 13. | Faridpur | .. .. | 5,000 | 1,75,000 |
| 14. | Mymensingh | .. .. | 5,000 | 4,78,000 |
| 15. | Bakarganj | .. .. | 10,000 | 76,000 |
| 16. | Rajshahi | .. .. | .. | 1,62,097 |
| 17. | Rangpur | .. .. | 6,000 | 2,60,000 |
| 18. | Pabna | .. .. | 25,000 | 3,50,900 |
| 19. | Bogra | .. .. | .. | .. |
| 20. | Dinajpur | .. .. | 500 | 8,050 |
| 21. | Malda | .. .. | 1,000 | 43,000 |
| 22. | Jalpaiguri | .. .. | .. | 700 |
| 23. | Darjeeling | .. .. | .. | .. |
| 24. | Chittagong | .. .. | 11,300 | 1,47,000 |
| 25. | Tippera | .. .. | 20,000 | 1,48,000 |
| 26. | Noakhali | .. .. | .. | 37,500 |
| | **Total** | .. | **1,50,300** | **36,72,947** |

**Appointment of Marriage Registrar and Kazi at Satkania, Chittagong.**

**9. Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI:** *(a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education (Registration) Department aware that the post of the Muhammadan Marriage Registrar and Kazi of the station at Satkania, police-station Satkania, in the district of Chittagong has recently been filled and the name gazetted disregarding the nomination of the Chittagong Quazi Advisory Committee and the recommendations of the Inspector-General of Registration?

*(b)* If the answer to *(a)* is in the affirmative what is the reason for not accepting the recommendation?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ:** *(a)* and *(b)* Government considered the second nominee of the District Advisory Committee to be more suitable than the first nominee and appointed him to the post in consultation with the Inspector-General of Registration, Bengal.

**Financial Business.**

**The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER:** Under rule 114 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, I beg to present to the Assembly the Report of the Committee on the Appropriation Accounts on Public Accounts and Finance Accounts of the Government of Bengal for the year 1937-38 and the Audit Report thereon

I also beg to present the demands in respect of excesses over grants and appropriations incurred in 1937-38.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** When will the Reports be distributed?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** They will be immediately distributed.

**GOVERNMENT BILLS.**

**The Official Trustees Bengal (Amendment) Bill, 1939.**

**The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur:** I beg to move that the Official Trustees (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1939, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

(1) Mr. Abdulla-Al Mahmood,

(2) Khan Bahadur Shah Abdur Rauf,

(3) Maulvi Abul Hashim,

(4) Haji Safiruddin Ahmed,
(5) Mr. Jagat Chandra Mandal,
(6) Mr. D. P. Khaitan,
(7) Mr. Iswar Das Jalan,
(8) Mr. Manmatha Nath Roy,
(9) Mr. Premhari Barma,
(10) Mr. R. J. Hawkins, and
(11) the mover,

with instruction to submit their report by the 22nd December, 1939, and that the quorum of the Select Committee be fixed at five.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** So far as motions Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are concerned, they do not arise, because the consent of the members have not been received.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

## The Administrator-General's (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1939.

**The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur:** I beg to move that the Administrator-General's (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1939, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of —

(1) Mr. Abdul Wahab Khan,
(2) Mr. Abul Quasem,
(3) Maulvi Abdul Latif Biswas,
(4) Mr. Abdur Rashid Mahmood,
(5) Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan Das,
(6) Mr. Jatindra Nath Basu,
(7) Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu,
(8) Babu Nagendra Nath Sen
(9) Mr. Md. Abul Fazl,
(10) Mr. R. J. Hawkins, and
(11) the mover,

with instruction to submit their report by the 22nd December, 1939, and that the quorum of the Select Committee be fixed at five.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

## The Bengal General Clauses (Amendment) Bill, 1939.

**The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur:** I beg to move for leave to introduce the Bengal General Clauses (Amendment) Bill, 1919.

The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

**The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur:** I also beg to move that the Bengal General Clauses (Amendment) Bill, be taken into consideration.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The motion that clause 1 stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The motion that clauses 2 to 7 stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The motion that preamble stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

**The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur:** I beg to move that the Bill, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

## Adjournment.

It being 5-57 p.m.—

The House was then adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Wednesday, the 6th December, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

## Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 6th December, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

### Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 211 members.

## STARRED QUESTIONS

### (to which oral answers were given)

### Promotion of Kanungos to the rank of Sub-Deputy Collectors.

*42. **Mr. SHAHEDALI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of Kanungos promoted to the rank of Sub-Deputy Collectors this year;

(*ii*) how many of them are—

(1) Muslims, and

(2) Hindus; and

(*iii*) whether the appointing authority at the time of appointment or promotion considered the question of ratio of percentages recently promised to be given effect to?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*)(*iii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

**MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy):** (*a*)(*i*) Six (viz., four Settlement Kanungos and two District Kanungos).

(*ii*) All of them are Hindus.

(*iii*) and (*b*) The policy of Government is that considerations of communal proportions are not taken into account in promotions.

**Mr. SHAHEDALI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there are any Muhammadan candidates among those who have been promoted to the rank of Sub-Deputy Collector?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Oh, yes, there are.,

**Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if the length of service or competency of the candidate are taken into consideration in this matter?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Yes, they are.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state how many Hindu and how many Muhammadan Kanungoes were nominated by the Revenue Department and how many from the districts?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I ask for notice.

**Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state who makes the recommendation for this promotion,—I mean who is the officer responsible for making recommendations to the Government of Bengal?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** The heads of departments under whom these officers serve.

**Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** Who is the head of the department?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** He is generally the Director of Land Records

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether any Muhammadans were nominated from the districts?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Sir, I ask for notice.

**Mr. SHAHEDALI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether any Muhammadan Kanungoes were nominated from the Chittagong Division by the authorities?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

## Effects of the last flood in Murshidabad.

*43. **Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state the nature and causes of the heavy flood during the last rains in the district of Murshidabad?

(*b*) What is the area affected by the said flood in each subdivision of the district?

(*c*) How many acres of crop-grown lands have been affected in each subdivision and what has been the extent of damages to the standing crops?

(*d*) What has been the number of houses demolished during the flood season?

(*e*) Have any steps been taken by Government for the reconstruction of these collapsed and demolished buildings and huts?

(*f*) Have Government in contemplation the opening of test relief works in the affected areas?

(*g*) How much of this year's flood-affected area was also similarly affected last year?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) The floods that occurred during the last rains were sudden and unexpectedly high but not very longstanding. They were due to the abrupt rise of the rivers Dwarka, Mayurakshi and Brahmani on account of heavy, continuous and prolonged rainfall for more than a week towards the end of July and the beginning of August last.

| | | Square miles. |
|---|---|---|
| (*b*) | Kandi | 220·34 |
| | Lalbagh ... | 42 |
| | Sadar ... | 113 |
| | ... | 375·34 |

| | | Acres. |
|---|---|---|
| (*c*) | Kandi .. | 65,750 |
| | Lalbagh .. | 18,320 |
| | Sadar .. | 63,200 |
| | ... | 147,270 |

Damages done to crops varied from annas four to annas sixteen.

| | | Houses. |
|---|---|---|
| (*d*) Kandi | ... | 6,487 |
| Lalbagh | ... | 373 |
| Sadar | ... | 1,030 |
| | ... | 7,890 |

(*e*) Loans have been given to enable such huts to be reconstructed.

(*f*) Test works will be opened if the local officers consider them necessary.

(*g*) Portions of this year's flood-affected area were also similarly affected last year. Exact information is not readily available.

**Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that on account of insufficient openings at the railway lines the heavy rush of water could not find any outlet?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I have nothing to do with openings at the railway bridges.

**Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** But is not the Hon'ble Minister at least aware of them?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** No, I am not officially aware.

**Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** Not even personally?

**Appointments made under Jute Restriction Scheme.**

*44. **Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of appointments recently made under the Jute Restriction Scheme in the Province; and

(*b*) how many of them are—

(*i*) Caste Hindus,

(*ii*) Scheduled Castes, and

(*iii*) Muslims?

**MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan):** (*a*) Up to date 4,020 appointments have been made exclusive of (*i*) menials and (*ii*) Settlement Kanungos and Jute Census Staff whose services have been taken over from the Settlement Department and the Indian Central Jute Committee, respectively.

(*b*) (*i*) 1,420.

(*ii*) 580.

(*iii*) 2,020.

**Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER:** With reference to (*b*)(*ii*), how many of them are Inspectors and how many of them are Recorders and Assistant Inspectors?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** May I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that the total number of officers only has been given and the number of menials and Settlement Kanungoes and the Jute Census Staff have been excluded from the answer? May I therefore ask what is the number of menials and Settlement Kanungoes and the Jute Census Staff also, taken together, and what is the number of the Caste Hindus and if there were any Scheduled Castes among them?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The answer is there.

**Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** But the answer is not quite clear, Sir. My question is: what is the number of menials and Settlement Kanungoes and Jute Census Staff taken together?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Sir, the other day I gave an answer as to the number of Settlement Kanungoes that have been taken in. As regards menials, we have not yet got the figure. A large number of officers under this scheme has been provided with menials and they have been given the option to appoint their own menials; we have not got the figure as yet, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You can take it that the Hindus have appointed Hindus and the Muhammadans have appointed Muhammadans. (Laughter.)

**Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** So far as the Settlement Kanungoes and the Jute Census Staff are concerned, what is the number of the Caste Hindus and of the Scheduled Castes?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question has been answered.

**Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** No, Sir, the question has not been answered and we are rather in a confusion.

**Khan Bahadur MD. ANWARUL AZIM:** May I enquire how many Muhammadans have been taken in?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** The answer is there: 2,020.

**Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state with reference to answer (*b*)(*ii*), how many of them are Inspectors and how many of them are Recorders and how many of them are Assistant Inspectors?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Sir, I want notice.

**Maulvi RAJIBUDDIN TARAFDAR :** মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন—এই jute restriction ব্যাপারে রাজসাহী বিভাগকে disregard করা হোয়েছে কি না?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS :** মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বোলবেন কি, দয়া করে,—Scheduled Casteদের শতকরা ১৫টা চাকরী পাওয়ার কথা নির্দ্দিষ্ট আছে। কিন্তু এখানে চাকুরীর সংখ্যা অনুসারে দেখা যাচ্ছে যে 15 per cent.এর কম তাদের হোয়েছে, এ কম হবার কারণ কি তিনি আমাদের বোলবেন?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** The reason has been reported to me to be this: that a sufficient number of Scheduled Caste qualified candidates were not available and a number of posts have been left vacant for the recruitment of Scheduled Castes in those posts.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please enlighten us as to how many of the posts have been kept vacant or reserved for the Scheduled Caste candidates?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** I have not got the figures.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That is a matter for calculation and arithmetic: it is not easy for the Hon'ble Minister to say that off-hand.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** I understood the Hon'ble Minister to say that a number of posts were kept vacant in the absence of qualified Scheduled Caste candidates, to be filled up afterwards. And my question was what is the number of such posts?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** I have already said that I have not got the figure with me here just now.

**Maulvi RAJIBUDDIN TARAFDAR :** মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি অনুগ্রহ করে বোলবেন এই সব appointment এর মধ্যে সব চেয়ে বেশী ফরিদপুরে হোয়েছে, অর্থাৎ সমস্ত বাংলায় যত appointment হোয়েছে, তার মধ্যে সব চেয়ে বেশী ফরিদপুরে হোয়েছে কি না?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what is the number of the Scheduled Caste candidates and how many of them have been appointed?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** I want notice. Unless I get notice it is impossible for me to answer that question in such a short time Recruitment was made in various centres and a very large number of candidates from all communities applied; so it will be a difficult job to sort out all the applications and find out actually the number of candidates belonging to this or that community.

**Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that all posts given to Scheduled Caste candidates were lower grade posts bearing minimum pay?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** That is not a fact, Sir.

**Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER:** The Hon'ble Minister has said that suitable Scheduled Caste candidates were not available. Will he be pleased to state what is the basis of this information?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some Scheduled Caste candidates got appointment but did not join in their posts as they were college students?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Quite likely.

**Filling up of the post of Nazir in District Judge's Office, Faridpur.**

*45. **Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether on the recent retirement of the chief ministerial officer of the District Judge's Court, Faridpur, the District Judge appointed an under-graduate lower grade clerk in the resultant vacancy of the post of *Nazir*;

(*ii*) whether the post of *Nazir* is a higher grade post whereof the pay is Rs. 175 to Rs. 225; and

(*iii*) whether the post of *Nazir* is next in rank and grade to the chief ministerial officer?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the lower grade clerk in question was in the grade of pay of Rs. 35 to Rs. 80; and

(*ii*) whether clerks of three intervening grades and some senior clerks of the lower division were superseded?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*)(*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons for the supersession?

**MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hosain, Khan Bahadur):** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes. One in Rs. 125—10/2—145—5/2—150; four in Rs. 80—4—140 and two in Rs. 80—2—100 grade.

(*c*) The matter is under investigation in connection with representations received through the District Judge.

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the points for investigation as referred to in his answer (*c*)?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** I submit, Sir, it does arise. These matters are under investigation. I asked, what are the reasons for this lower grade clerk being promoted to the post of Nazir and the Hon'ble Minister has admitted that all these things had happened and that it is under investigation. If he had said that the matter was under consideration, I could have understood him.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Investigation is consideration.

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government are considering that this injustice should be removed without delay?

**The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur:** Several cases like this are now before Government. You have pointed out one but there are about twenty more cases lying before me, and to come to some conclusion will take time, but I hope my friend will leave the matter to me.

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** In view of all the facts being admitted by the Hon'ble Minister, will he be pleased to state whether he will take immediate steps to remove the grievances?

**The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur:** Provided they are legitimate.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the representation has been received by Government, how long will they take to consider it and when will the result be published?

**The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur:** I have already told you that it will take time.

### Object and reasons of Jute Registration Scheme.

***46. Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state the object and reasons of the Scheme of the Jute Registration that has been undertaken by the Government of Bengal?

(*b*) Is it in the contemplation of Government to adopt some effective legal measure for restriction of sowing and growing of jute to assure higher prices for the *raiyats*?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of fixing a minimum price of jute in the near future.

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** (*a*) Government are contemplating the regulation of the cultivation of jute according to demand and stock in order to secure a good price for the jute-growers. But

before any scheme of regulation of the crop is launched with a reasonable chance of success, it is necessary to have a reliable record of the area now sown with jute by each cultivator in the jute-growing districts. The scheme of jute registration has been undertaken for the purpose of making such a record.

(*b*) I have already introduced the Bengal Jute Regulation Bill in this House for taking necessary powers for (*i*) registration of the area under jute and (*ii*) regulation of the crop. The powers for regulation will be utilized if and when a scheme of regulation of the jute crop has been adopted. I am at present watching the situation in regard to world demand for jute and also the stock with the millowners and upcountry dealers with a view to making a final decision in the matter.

(*c*) This question was referred to the Jute Enquiry Committee whose report is now under print. I shall take a decision in the matter after a careful consideration of the report of the Committee.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to effect restriction of production jute as a result of this measure?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Government has not yet decided whether the crop of 1940 will be restricted or regulated in any way. That decision will be arrived at shortly after considering various factors.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have considered the fact that due to the World War the demand for jute is growing and in view of that to restrict the production of jute will be harmful to the cultivators at the present time when naturally higher prices are demanded by the jute growers?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** "Under contemplation", when? "Contemplation" might be ten years after.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** With regard to the yield of 1940.

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** I have already stated, Sir, that Government have not yet come to any decision. Government will certainly give the most serious consideration to the point of view that has been placed before me by the honourable member.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is considering the question of fixing up an absolute minimum price of jute so that if and when falling of prices commences prices do not come down below the level fixed.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that there are localities where arable areas actually lie fallow?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** I understand there are some.

**Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware if restriction of jute is resorted to in such a locality the lands will remain fallow and the interest of the growers will suffer?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** This question does not arise.

**Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE :** মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি বলা কোয়ে বোলবেন- এই record কি ... record না অন্য record এ মাঝে মাঝে হবে ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** I think there will be records made in future also if occasion arises.

**Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to the answer that reliable record of the area now sown with jute is necessary, whether the record will be made of the area where jute was grown last year or paddy by enquiries and replies obtained thereto?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Yes, where jute was grown this year.

**Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** Will it be obtained by enquiries from cultivators because jute is no longer existing on the land?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I suppose anyone can find out from the nature of the land whether jute was grown or paddy.

**Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** Is it not a fact that the jute land of the cultivator may vary from year to year?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Yes, it actually varies.

**Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any intention in the minds of Government to tax the jute-growers under this scheme of jute legislation?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Government cannot tax the cultivators unless my honourable friend and other honourable members give sanction to Government to that effect.

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Report of the Jute Enquiry Committee has been printed and submitted to Governmet. and, if so, whether he is aware that the majority of the members of that Committee have recommended the fixation of a minimum price for jute?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am sorry, Mr. Biswas, to remind you that this question is concerned with the registration and not fixing of a minimum price.

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** My supplementary question is with reference to answer (c), in which there is a pointed question "whether the Hon'ble Minister is considering the desirability of fixing a minimum price of jute".

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Yes, that is after consideration of the report

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** My question is whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware that the Report has been printed, signed and submitted to Government and it is in their possession? If so, will he be pleased to state how long will he take now to consider the question of fixing a minimum price of jute?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** The Report of the Jute Enquiry Committee was submitted only two or three days ago. Government will come to a decision as early as possible. But just at the present moment there is no urgency about the question of fixing a minimum price for jute.

**Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI:** With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the jute-growing areas?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise here.

**Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS :** মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি দয়া কোরে বোলবেন এই যে jute registration scheme এটা কি সারা বাংলায় যত পাটের জমি আছে তার সবগুলোকেই registry করা হোচ্ছে না কোন particular জমি সম্বন্ধে ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Registration of all lands that were sown with jute in 1939 throughout Bengal.

**Maulvi RAJIBUDDIN TARAFDAR :** মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি অনুগ্রহ কোরে বোলবেন—যে 44B (i)তে যে appointmentএর কথা বলা হোয়েছে এর মধ্যে কি service ratio ধরা হোয়েছে ?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

**(to which answers were laid on the table)**

### Construction of a pucca road from Mymensingh to Tangail.

**10. Mr. AMRITA LAL MANDAL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) that there is no adequate means of communication of the Tangail subdivision with the outside subdivisions and districts;

(*ii*) that *pucca* road from Mymensingh to Tangail was under construction by the department on the recommendations of the Road Development Board;

(*iii*) that the Government have issued a circular stopping all major works and as a result the work of Mymensingh-Tangail Road has been stopped, and

(*iv*) that almost all the materials including iron materials for the road and bridges were purchased?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the affirmative, what action does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take in the matter?

**MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar):** (*a*) (*i*) I agree that improved communications are desirable.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) No such circular has been issued, and work on the road is proceeding.

(*iv*) Some of the required materials have been collected.

(*b*) Does not arise.

**Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for how many years the recommendation of the Road Development Board, for the construction of a pucca road from Mymensingh to Tangail, has been lying with the Government, and how long will they take to complete the construction?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** Sir, I may inform the House that although there was some delay in undertaking the preliminaries——(Mr. SPEAKER: May I request the honourable members not to talk, as otherwise it is impossible to carry on the proceedings of the House) of this particular road, we made good progress last year and we expect that the progress of the current year would also be quite fair. It is difficult to give any idea about the time it will take to complete the entire road having regard to its length and to the fact that we have got to allot funds for the various districts.

**Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the progress of construction of the aforesaid road is being made at a very very low speed?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** When the year is over I hope the honourable member will not hold that view.

**Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন—টাঙ্গাইলের রাস্তা ঘাটের উন্নতির কোন পরিকল্পনা গভর্ণমেণ্টের আছে কি না?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** I would refer the honourable member to the report of Mr. King.

**Petty irrigation projects for Rajshahi district.**

**11. Maulvi MANIRUDDIN AKHAND:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department be pleased to state whether he has got any list of small irrigation projects for the Rajshahi district to meet local needs?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the names of those projects; and

(*ii*) the purpose for which they are recommended?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** (*a*) and (*b*) A list of small irrigation projects for the Province has been compiled on the basis of reports and recommendations received from administrative officers and local authorities. I am at present considering the question of publishing the list, with brief notes by our technical officers, and I hope that the hon'ble member will be prepared to wait for this publication. About 85 schemes have been proposed for the district of Rajshahi at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,87,000, a figure which our technical officers consider to be an under-estimate.

**Mr. SURENDRA MOHAN MAITRA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us an idea when he proposes to publish the scheme, will it be before the Budget Session or after that?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** We shall do our best to present the printed book during the next Budget Session.

**Construction of the Satkhira-Navaran Road.**

**12. Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the construction work of the Satkhira-Navaran Road has been suspended?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(*c*) Is it a fact that materials have been purchased for the construction of the road?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the length of the proposed road;

(*ii*) the work that has so far been done; and

(*iii*) the amount that has been spent up to date for the purpose?

(*e*) Has the budgeted amount for the construction of the road on previous years been spent?

(*f*) If the answer to (*e*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) (*i*) About 26 miles.

(*ii*) Work at various stages is proceeding on the portion between Navaran and Ellispur. The Provincial Board of Communications agreed at their meeting of the 29th November that the Provincial Government should recommend to the Government of India that the remaining portion should be executed at the cost of the Road Fund. Government will make this recommendation if they are satisfied that the construction of the road is not likely to be prejudicial to public health.

(*iii*) About Rs. 3,30,000.

(*e*) and (*f*) There was some delay previous to 1938-39, as the brick supplying contractor was behind his schedule owing to a shortage of railway wagons for the supply of coal. The Budget provision for 1938-39 was spent in full, and it is expected that that for the current year will be too.

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** With reference to answer (*d*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government made an exhaustive enquiry relating to public health before the scheme for the construction of the road in question was sanctioned by Government?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** Sir, it is usual to undertake enquiry by the Public Health Department as well as by the Irrigation Department whenever a road scheme is taken in hand. As regards this particular project I am not sure if any investigation was made by those departments as this was undertaken before our time. I believe investigation by the Public Health Department will have to be undertaken for the rest of the project not taken in hand.

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** With reference to answers (*c*), (*d*) (*ii*) and (*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how at this stage the question of public health can arise when the road in question is in the process of construction, materials purchased and an amount of Rs. 3,30,000 has already been spent for the purpose of the construction of the road.

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** Sir, as I have already said the investigation by the Public Health Department is likely to be limited to that portion of the road which has not been undertaken. But if any factor escaped the notice of the Public Health Department for the completed portion of the road during their first enquiry further investigation may be necessary.

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is going to abandon the scheme for the construction of the road in question on the flimsy ground of public health?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** I entirely deny the charge.

## Admissibility of the Adjournment Motion of Mr. Niharendu Dutta Mazumdar.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motion a few days ago and you were pleased to say that you would consider it May I know if you have come to a decision?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have considered the matter and I may inform the House of the actual position My first difficulty is that this order was promulgated on the 15th of November and the House met on the 27th November. Now, in between these dates there was enough time to give notice of this adjournment motion but the honourable member was not vigilant enough to do so Mr. Dutta Mazumdar, can you tell me if it is a fact that this notice was served on the 15th or 16th of November last?

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** With regard to the date of the order, I am not in a position to say on which date the Magistrate passed the order, but there has been a lapse of time between the passing of the order by the Magistrate and the service of the same on Mr Zaman, when he was on his normal tour——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** On what date was it promulgated?

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** It was promulgated on Friday last. I gave notice of this motion in the office on Monday last. On Friday the service of the order was effected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Well, in any case I am not prepared to take this matter up at this stage. There is also another defect in your notice, and that is, I have been at considerable pains to find out what is the Government of India Act, 1939; I have not been able to find it out. On the other hand, in the notice of adjournment of Sibnath Banerji I find details. It is said that "Under clause (*10*) of sub-rule (*ii*) of rule 2 of the Government of India Act, 1935", etc.——

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Sir, mine is exactly on the same lines as that of Mr. Sibnath Banerji.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** No, no, so far as your notice is concerned, I have not given consent, because it does not give any details. Mr. Banerji's gave details; so I took it up. In any case, so far as yours is concerned, it is a matter in which an adjournment motion cannot arise and I am also not satisfied as to what is the basis of this order, because I cannot find out the Government of India Act, "1939"! If you can show me that, then I shall be able to know the basis of the order by reference to the Act.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Sir, if this motion is not allowed as an adjournment motion, I would request you to consider whether it could be brought forward as a privilege motion, because a member of the House is being restrained from visiting his own constituency.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I will consider it, if you will table it as a privilege motion.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Sir, I have a submission to make. With regard to the first point that you raised, you will agree with me that we availed of the earliest opportunity, after this order was made known, to give notice of it to the House.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Unfortunately, you never mentioned when it was promulgated.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Sir, I mentioned that it was promulgated recently.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That is too vague.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Sir, as you know some time elapsed between the date of the Magistrate's passing the order and the date of the service. Therefore, I stated that it was promulgated and served on him recently.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I must draw your attention that you cannot use "on or about the 2nd of December" to a motion of this character. You

will have to give the specific date on an adjournment motion in order that I may be satisfied that there is really an urgency. You will realize that the whole point in your motion is the point of urgency. If you make one day's delay, your motion would be out of order. So far as this motion is concerned, unfortunately I find Mr. Banerjee has stated "on or about"; so far as Mr. Mazumdar is concerned,—if instead of discussing in the House, he had devoted a little time in drafting this motion, he could have probably improved it.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Sir, with regard to the other point, it is not the Defence of India Ordinance that is intended to be raised by my motion. It is the question of a member being restrained ——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I do not find what is the reference to the Government of India Act.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** I have not made any reference to the Government of India Act or the Defence of India Ordinance. The fact is that a member has been restrained from visiting his constituency.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You must satisfy me that he is legally restrained. I am not satisfied on that point.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** I can supply, Sir, an exact copy of the order and the exact terms.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have got it here. I find the order is under the Government of India Act and not under the Defence of India Act.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** That only shows that the Magistrate must have acted under some sort of misapprehension. But in effect a member having been precluded from visiting his constituency gives rise to a very serious situation, which deserves the attention of this House. You, Sir, as the custodian of the rights and privileges of this House as well as of the members would, I submit, be the first to give an opportunity of this matter being discussed and thrashed out before this House.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** In my case, I have not given my consent and I cannot take it up.

## GOVERNMENT BILL.

### The Bengal Official Records Bill.

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ:** Sir, the motion standing in my name is for reference of the Bengal Official Records Bill to a Select Committee. The Bill was circulated for eliciting public opinion, but unfortunately, the response received has been very meagre. In these circumstances, I am not opposed to a recirculation of which two motions have been tabled by two hon'ble members. I am prepared to consent to Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy's suggestion for a recirculation for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st week of February, 1940. The only suggestion that I should make is that a definite date should be fixed. If this motion is moved and the House accepts the motion, I will not oppose it and then my motion need not be moved.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I think in the absence of Mr Jalaluddin Hashemy, it will be better if you yourself move this as a short-notice motion.

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ:** Sir, with your leave, in lieu of the motion standing in my name, I move that the Bengal Official Records Bill be recirculated for the purpose of eliciting further opinion thereon by the 15th February, 1940

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** We will only submit, Sir, that in so sending out the Bill again for public opinion, the Hon'ble Mr. Speaker's Department will take steps to see that all the Bar Libraries of the Province get a copy of it as well as all the District Associations So far, we have not received a single reply from these sources, and that is very necessary.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq that the Bengal Official Records Bill, 1939, be recirculated for the purpose of eliciting further opinion thereon by the 15th of February, 1940, was then put and agreed to.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** There is no other thing in the agenda to-day. There is one matter which I want to discuss before I adjourn the House and that is this. I wish to know from Government as to what date would be convenient for the discussion of the resolution on the three Ordinances. What I am suggesting is that there is not much in the agenda of the 8th. As regards the non-official Bills, they will be

finished in an hour. After the non-official Bills are finished, and if there is any time left we will take up the discussion on the Ordinances on the 8th; if not, we will take it up on a later date which will be announced later. Will that meet the Opposition?

**Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Yes, Sir, that will be convenient.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I think the best arrangement is that on the 8th after the non-official Bills are finished, if any time is left- as I anticipate time will be left—we will take up the discussion of the Ordinances. Does that meet with the approval of the House?

(The House expressed its approval.)

## Adjournment.

It being 5-22 p.m

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Thursday, the 7th December, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

## Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 7th December, 1939, at 4-45 p.m

**Present:**

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 212 members.

## STARRED QUESTIONS

**(to which oral answers were given)**

### Deforestation in the district of Chittagong.

*47. **Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forest Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing thana by thana and year by year since 1st April, 1937, how many acres of reserved and protected forests have been deforested in the district of Chittagong?

(*b*) Do the Government contemplate abolishing the grazing tax and taxes on other forest products required for domestic purposes of the poor villagers such as hemp (*san*), bamboo and dry fuels, etc., or at least reducing the rates thereof?

**The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb Raikut):** It is not possible to furnish the information within this short period.

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Sir, I think the answer is not complete. The answer is with regard to (*a*) and not with regard to (*b*).

**The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK:** With regard to (*b*), I may inform the House that orders have been passed to supply thatching grass free to the poor cultivators when they produce certificates of poverty from the Presidents of the Union Boards. With regard to bamboo and dry fuels, the matter is still under consideration.

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** With reference to the answer given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us some idea of the time which is likely to be required to furnish the information?

**The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK:** We shall try to collect the information as soon as possible. But as the question covers the whole district and not any particular area of it, it is difficult to give the exact time.

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Will it be possible for the Hon'ble Minister in charge to furnish the information in the next session of the Assembly?

**The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK:** As soon as the information is received, it will be supplied to the honourable member

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** On a point of order, Sir. If an answer is not given, under the new rules the question will stand over till the next session automatically. As far as the answer to this question is concerned, may we take it that you will be pleased to treat it as a question not answered in this session?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That is not necessary.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** But what about the House? We want your protection, Sir, in this matter. This is a very important point.

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** With reference to question (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister give us some definite idea whether it is in the contemplation of Government to abolish the taxes on hemp, bamboo, and dry fuels?

**The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK:** As I have already said, with regard to hemp which, I understand, is a sort of thatching grass, it is to be supplied free, but with regard to other matters they are under consideration.

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Does the Hon'ble Minister agree with me that the Chittagong Division is being deforested as suggested in the question?

**The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK:** That is not a fact.

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** May I know from the Hon'ble Minister if by this system of grazing taxes and taxes on hemp, bamboo and dry fuels, the people of Chittagong are going to be dehumanised as well?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Exposure of food-articles by shop-keepers, hawkers, and others.**

*48. **Mr. SERAJUL ISLAM:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health Department aware that the hawkers, hotel-keepers and stall-keepers in towns in general, and in Calcutta in particular, keep open their articles of food for sale, just by the roadside or on the footpaths?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, he proposes to take for keeping such foods and food-articles covered in glass-cases or in such other covers that may be recommended by the department?

**MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan):** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Under the present Food Adulteration Act, the responsibility, both in Calcutta and in the mufassal, for taking action for ensuring purity of food within the laws rests with the local authorities in regard to their respective jurisdictions. The question of amending the law with a view to ensuring more effective control in all directions is, however, receiving my consideration.

**Nomination of members to Dinajpur District Board.**

*49. **Babu SHYAMA PROSAD BARMAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the educational and other qualifications of persons who have recently been nominated to the District Board of Dinajpur; and

(*b*) why the outgoing Chairman of the Dinajpur District Board has not been nominated?

**MINISTER in charge of the LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca):** (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) There is no rule requiring the outgoing Chairman of a District Board to be nominated as a member.

*Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 49.*

1. Khan Bahadur Mahatabuddin Ahmed, M.L.A.—Graduate. A retired Government servant.
2. Maulvi Mofizuddin Choudhury, M.L.A.—Non-Matric.
3. Maulvi Hafizuddin Choudhury, M.L.A.—Under-Graduate.
4. Maulvi Kader Baksh, M.L.C.—Bachelor-in-Law
5. Rai Sahib Jogodiswar Shaha—Non-Matric.
6. Babu Atul Chandra Ray—Bachelor-in-Law
7. Babu Harendra Nath Ray—Non-Matric.
8. Subdivisional Officer, Balurghat—Graduate
9. Subdivisional Officer, Thakurgaon—Graduate.

**Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any principle was followed in nominating the M.L.A.'s and M.L.C.'s of the district to the District Board?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That is a very good principle.

**Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** What I mean to say is that why some of the M.L.A.'s were nominated and why some of them were omitted

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You had better put another question

**Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for nominating some of the M.L.A.'s and M.L.C.'s and discarding others?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** The principle of nomination is that Government nominate those whom they think fit There is no question of nominating M.L.A.'s or M.L.C.'s.

**Babu SHYAMA PROSAD BARMAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why any Hindu M.L.A. or M.L.C. was not nominated?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I do not think you can ask questions about omission; you can ask questions about commission. (Laughter.)

**Babu SHYAMA PROSAD BARMAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no Hindu M.L.A. or M.L.C. has been nominated?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** As I have already said, it is not essential that M.L.A.'s only should be nominated, but unfortunately the gentlemen whom Government thought fit to nominate happened to be M.L.A.'s and M.L.C.'s.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any Hindu M.L.A.'s have up till now been nominated and whether invidious distinction was made at the time of nomination, simply because some were Muhammadans and some were Hindus?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দয়া করে বলবেন কি District Board nomination ব্যাপারে definite কোন principle follow করা হয় কি না?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** There is a definite principle.

**Babu PREMHARI BARMA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether only the M.L.A.'s and M.L.C.'s belonging to the Coalition Party have been nominated?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** As I have already said, they happened to be M.L.A.'s and M.L.C.'s, but there is no question of nominating from one side or the other.

**Babu PREMHARI BARMA:** Is it a fact that all the members of the Legislature who have been nominated to the District Board belong to the Coalition Group?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** মন্ত্রীমহাশয় আগে বলেছেন যে নির্দিষ্ট কোন principle follow করা হয়—; কি principle follow করা হয় দয়া করে বলবেন কি?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** There are three principles which are followed by Government: First, equity amongst communities; secondly, those persons whom Government think fit to serve the best interests of the locality; and thirdly, Government nominate retired officers with administrative knowledge who can serve the interests of the District Board or the locality.

**Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these qualifications or qualities are possessed by Babu Premhari Barma, M.L.A., of Dinajpur?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that persons of one political creed were nominated and those of another were not?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** That is not a fact.

**Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if certain members of the Opposition were nominated to the Bakarganj District Board?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten us whether up till now all the M.L.A.'s and the M.L.C.'s who have been nominated by the Government belong to the Coalition Party alone?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

## Delimitations of constituencies of Malda district for District Board elections.

*50. **Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state how many suggestions as regards the delimitation of constituencies of the Malda district for the purpose of District Board election have been sent to the Government through the District Magistrate by the Malda District Board?

(*b*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that the former suggestion of the District Board has been altered by the same District Board in a requisition meeting; and

(*ii*) that the second suggestion has been forwarded to the District Magistrate for necessary action?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of having a fresh suggestion from the representatives of Malda in the Bengal Legislative Assembly before it is finally accepted by the Government?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** (*a*) One.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Any suggestion from the source mentioned by the hon'ble member that may be received by Government before they have reached a final decision will certainly be given due consideration.

**Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister state what are the principles that are followed in the delimitation of constituencies?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise. That is not a fit supplementary question on this matter.

**Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether the District Magistrate of Malda and the Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi before forwarding the suggestion to the Local Self-Government Department considered the question of the area, voting strength and the population of the district?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** I want notice: I cannot say that off-hand.

**Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consult the opinion of the M. L. A'S. of the district before coming to a final decision?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** Well, if the M. L. A.'s in the district would come and see me, certainly I will consult them.

## UNSTARRED QUESTION

**(answer to which was laid on the table)**

### Improvement of rural credit system.

**13. Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Department aware—

(*i*) that the credit system in the country has been almost lost; and

(*ii*) that the agriculturists have been sufferers in consequence?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, he proposes to take to improve the credit system for the benefit of the agriculturists?

**MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick):** (*a*) (*i*) I am not aware of any such "Credit System" as is indicated. The supply of credit was free of all control. I am, however, aware that it is difficult for agriculturists to obtain credit from private sources.

(*ii*) I am aware that the agriculturists have been experiencing difficulties.

(*b*) To improve the working and extend the scope of Co-operative Societies, and to enlarge their number.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether Government has considered any further means of extending rural credit other than that extended by the Co-operative Societies?

**The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULICK:** Not that I am aware of.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state how long is it that the agriculturists have started experiencing acute difficulties in the way of obtaining rural credit?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That is not a proper matter for a supplementary question.

**Mr. NIHERENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has stated that he is aware that agriculturists are experiencing difficulties to obtain credit and my question is how long has he been aware of this, namely, of the difficulties experienced by agriculturists in this connection?

**The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK:** Well, since I have been in office.

**Mr. NIHERENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what steps he has taken since he has been in office with a view to meet the credit requirements of the agriculturists?

**The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK:** So far as the Co-operative Department is concerned, I have indicated the steps I have taken in my answer (*b*).

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Answer (*b*) relates to the better working of co-operative societies. Will the Hon'ble Minister therefore be pleased to say whether by his answer (*b*) he is referring to the need of improving the degree of efficiency and working of the co-operative societies or is he referring to the actual extension of credit?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Minister has referred to the extension of the scope and to the enlargement of the number of the co-operative societies.

**Mr. NIHERENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** I want a dfinite answer from the Hon'ble Minister, because the co-operative societies are notorious for——

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what definite steps regarding the extension of credit to the cultivators have already been taken?

**The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK:** This year we have increased the number of credit societies to over 6,000 and Government have granted a sum of Rs. 13½ lakhs directly to the Provincial Bank for supplying credit to the agriculturist members of the societies.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if Government are considering the desirability of pooling other sources of credit than co-operative credit to see that rural credit is improved.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Minister has already said that he is not aware of it.

**The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK:** I am extremely sorry, Sir, that this matter does not come within the cognisance of my department alone. Therefore I cannot undertake the responsibility of answering what other departments are doing.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** My difficulty is that this question has been directed at the Co-operative Minister, but the question relates to a matter which is perhaps within the purview of other Hon'ble Ministers also. If the Co-operative Minister is incapable of dealing with this question, let the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce Department give a reply.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** This question must be discussed from a broad stand-point. Dr. Sanyal, will you put your question in another form? I think you must realise that a question like this can be a subject matter of debate but not a suitable matter for question. To answer it would be very difficult: if you want an answer on a specific point you are likely to go beyond

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Department aware that Government has been trying to explore other sources of credit than co-operative societies to find out if rural credit can be improved?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** He has said that he does not know If he tries to go further he may have to divulge Cabinet secrets.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Well, let the Hon'ble Minister say that he does not know

**The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK:** It is not to my knowledge, Sir

**Mr. ABDUL WAHAB Khan:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what progress, if any, has been made in the scheme indicated in his speech regarding co-operative credit system delivered during the last session of the Assembly?

**The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK:** Following that announcement I have indicated in my answer to-day what steps Government have taken, that is to say, that Government have increased the number of co-operative societies and have granted a sum of Rs. 13½ lakhs, as I have already stated, to meet the demands of the agriculturist members of the societies in the interior.

## GOVERNMENT BILL.

### The Bengal Tenancy (Third Amendment) Bill, 1939.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I find that the Hon'ble Finance Minister is absent: so, we will take up this matter later on.

Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy will now move his Tenancy Amendment Bill.

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Sir, I beg to introduce a Bill further to amend the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, and the Bengal Tenancy (Second Amendment) Act, 1939.

The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I also beg to move that the said Bill be taken into consideration.

The motion that the Bill further to amend the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, and the Bengal Tenancy (Second Amendment) Act, 1939, be taken into consideration was then put and agred to.

## Supplementary Statement of Expenditure.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Now that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has made his appearance, I think I can ask him now to present his Supplementary Statement of Expenditure.

**The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER:** I am sorry, Sir, I am late.

Sir, under section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to present a Supplementary Estimate of Expenditure that will be necessary during the current year. The total amount is Rs. 62,19,000 out of which Rs. 60,000 is charged and the remainder voted. Out of that total Rs. 47½ lakhs are on account of loans to agriculturists and Rs. 6¾ lakhs on account of test works and gratuitous relief. The reasons for the anticipated excess have been given in the Explanatory Memorandum under each head and I need not dwell on them at this stage.

## The Bengal Tenancy (Third Amendment) Bill, 1939.

*Clause 1.*

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Abul Fazl, I think your motion No. 8 can hardly arise.

**Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL:** I am sorry, Sir, there is a technical mistake.

The motion that clause 1 stand part of the Bill, was then put and agreed to.

*Clause 2.*

**Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL:** Sir, I beg to .....at in clause 2, lines 4 and 5, for the words "shall in the prescribed manner serve the notices for which this section provides", the words "shall serve the notices through the agency of their peons" be substituted.

Sir, the object of my amendment is to do away with the provision of a fee of annas eight per notice to be served which is the present practice. It means that a huge amount has to be paid by the transferor as notice fees. These notices can easily be served through the peons of the Revenue-officers, Sub-Registrars and also court peons, who have very little work to do at present when there are very few court cases. If necessary one or two more peons may be appointed. If this is done, it will save much money which it is proposed to levy from the transferors, and it will also solve the problem of unemployment to some extent. The Hon'ble Minister has not told us in what manner the notices are intended to be served. At present these are served on payment of a fee of eight annas per notice. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will be pleased to accept my amendment.

**Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI:** Sir, I beg to move that in clause 2, in line 4, after the word "manner", the following words be inserted, namely :—

"subject to the approval of the Bengal Legislature"

সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি যে সংশোধনী প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত কোরছি তার কারণ এই যে, বর্তমানে কোন জমি যদি হস্তান্তর কোরতে হয়—তাহলে যারা হস্তান্তরকারী তাদের notice fee অনেক দিতে হয়। প্রথমতঃ জমিদারের নোটিশ ফি দিতে হবে, এবং শুধু একজনকে নয় তাঁদের যত শরিক আছেন সবকেই দিতে হবে, দ্বিতীয়তঃ ঐ জমির যদি co-sharer tenants থাকে, তাহলে তাদেরও notice দিতে হবে। এবং এই নোটিশের যত খরচ তাও হস্তান্তরকারীকেই দিতে হবে, এবং এই নোটিশ সম্বন্ধে কত খরচ পোড়বে, সে সম্বন্ধে, আমার বিশ্বাস, যাঁরা এ আইনটা পাশ কোরেছিলেন তাঁদের তখন ধারণা হয় নাই। আমি সম্প্রতি যে সকল ঘটনা দেখেছি তাতে এই সভার কাছে বোলতে পারি যে এই notice দেওয়া নিয়ে এত বেশী খরচ পোড়ে যাচ্ছে যে প্রজারা মনে করে যে জমিদারদের যে transfer fee এবং landlords' fee দেওয়া হতো সেটা বরং সুবিধাজনক ছিলো। কারণ, একটা notice জারি করাতে হোলে registration এর দরুণ সোয়া চার আনা খরচ লাগে, acknowledgment এর দরুণ লাগে চার পয়সা, লেখবার মজুরী খরচও লাগে প্রায় চার আনা চারপর সাব-রেজিষ্ট্রার বাবুর সাক্ষোপাঙ্গরা রয়েছেন এবং স্বয়ং সাব-রেজিষ্ট্রার বাবু indirectly যা নেন তাতে কোরে একটা নোটিশ জারির খরচ অন্ততঃ বারো আনা থেকে চৌদ্দ আনা পড়ে। এবং যেখানে tenancy অংশীদার থাকে খুব বেশী এবং জমিদারের শরিকও থাকে বেশী সেখানে এত অধিক খরচ পড়ে যে জমি কেনা খুব কঠিন হোয়ে পড়ে। এখানে আমার সামনে একটা উদাহরণ রোয়েছে। জোতের শরিক সংখ্যা ৬৯ জন,—কয়েকজনের নামও পোড়ে দিতে পারি—খগেন্দ্রনাথ বেরা, সুরেন্দ্রনাথ বেরা, সুরেন্দ্রচন্দ্র বেরা, মাতঙ্গিনী দাসী, বারানসী বেরা, ইত্যাদি, ইত্যাদি। কারো অংশ তিন আনা, কারো অংশ এক আনা সতেরো গুন্ডা।

কারো অংশ বোলো গণ্ডা কারো অংশ দু গণ্ডা, কারো বা অংশ এক কাণ এক দন্ডি ইত্যাদি, ইত্যাদি এই কোরে ৬৯ জন। এখন দুর্ভাগ্যক্রমে যদি কোন অংশীদারের জমি বিক্রয় কোরতে হয় তাহলে এই ৬৯ জনকে নোটিশ দিতে হবে। এবং প্রত্যেক নোটিশের জন্য যদি বারো আনা, খুব কম পক্ষে দশ আনাও খরচ হয় তাহলে মোট খরচ পোড়ে যায় প্রায় ৪৩, টাকা দুই আনা। এবং প্রত্যেকের ভাগে যে জমি পোড়বে সেও হিসাব কোরে দেখা গেছে দুই একরের বেশী নয়। কাজেই কোন অংশীদারকে যদি দুই একর জমি ছাড়তে হয় তাহলে শুধু সরিকদের নোটিশ দেবার জন্যই তাকে ৪৩৲ খরচ দিতে হবে। তাহলে ব্যাপারটা আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি এই যে, যে generous spirit থেকে এটা করা হয়েছিলো যে আমরা landlords' fee তুলে দিলাম, আর কোন খরচ লাগবে না, বাস্তবিক তা নয়। মফস্বলে কি হোচ্ছে, সব-রেজিষ্ট্রার আফিসে খরচ নিলে এবং যারা জমি বিক্রয় কোরছে তাদের কাছে যদি খরচ নেওয়া যায় তাহলেই জানা যায় যে এই notice জারির খরচ কত বেশী। কাজেই ব্যাপারটার একটা সমাধান কোরতে হবে।

গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে amendment এনেছেন in the prescribed manner serve the notices, etc., একথা গভর্ণমেণ্টের মনেও হয়তো জেগেছে। যদিও বিলের Statement of Objects and Reasons এ এ জিনিষটা নাই। তাহলেও এ জিনিষটা সস্তা যাতে কোরতে পারা যায় সেটা হয়তো তাদের অভিপ্রায়। এ বিষয়ে মিঞা আবদুল হামিদ এক amendment এনেছেন। তিনি বোলেছেন যে ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের through দিয়ে যদি নোটিশ জারি করানো যায় তাহলে অনেক কম খরচ হোতে পারে। মহম্মদ আবদুল করিম সাহেব বোলেছেন Registering Officer রা তাদের পিয়নের দ্বারা নোটিশ জারি করাবেন। যে কোন একটা উপায় বের করা দরকার, যাতে কোরে অত্যন্ত খরচার হার থেকে তারা রক্ষা পায়—যদি বাস্তবিক সরিক যারা তাদের প্রতি ন্যায় বিচার কোরতে হয়, তাহলে আমার মনে হয় যে জমি বিক্রয় করে তার খরচে তার উপর দিয়ে এটা হওয়া উচিত নয়। সরিকের জোত যদি বাস্তবিক অপর কোন সরিকের কিনতে হয় তাহলে স্থিতীয় ব্যক্তিরই এটা দেখা উচিত যে জোত বিক্রয় হোচ্ছে কি হোচ্ছে না। ইচ্ছা থাকলে এটা জানা খুব কঠিন হয় না। কিন্তু অনর্থক যেখানে ৪০ টাকা, ৬০ টাকা, ৭০ টাকা নোটিশের ভিতর দিয়ে খরচ হোচ্ছে সেখানে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের নিকট আমার অনুরোধ—তিনি আমার amendment টা গ্রহণ কোরে নিয়ে যাতে এই ব্যাপারটা সস্তা হয় সেইটা করুন।

তারপর ঐ টাকাটাও আমাদের হাতে থাকে না। সম্পূর্ণ টাকাটা চোলে যায় ভারত গবর্ণমেণ্টের হাতে। রেজেষ্ট্রী আফিসের মারফৎ যে টাকাটা যায় সে টাকা দ্বারা আমাদের বাঙ্গালা গবর্ণমেণ্টের কোন উপকার হয় না। সেটা India Government এর হাতেই চোলে যায়। হয়তো মন্ত্রী মহাশয় রেজেষ্ট্রী আফিসের through দিয়া বোলতে পারেন এই notice fee'র জন্য কত খরচ হোয়েছে। আমি যতদূর জানি তাতে প্রচুর টাকা খরচ হোয়েছে এবং সে টাকা India Government এর তহবিলে চোলে গেছে। এবং Government of Bengal তার কোন লাভ পান নাই। যাতে কোরে নোটিশ সস্তায় দেওয়া যায় এবং টাকাটাও বাঙ্গালা গবর্ণমেণ্টের হাতেই থাকে আমি মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের কাছে সেই বিষয়টা স্থাপন কোরতে চাইছি। আমি আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করার পূর্বে এই কথা বোলতে চাই যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যেটা কোরবেন সেটা যেন আমাদের এই আইন সভার সামনে উপস্থিত করেন। কারণ তা যদি করা হয় তাহলে বিষয়টা আমরা খুঁটিনাটিরূপে বিবেচনা কোরতে পারবো এবং এই যে জিনিষটা আমরা চাইছি সস্তা করা, সেই সস্তা করা জিনিষটা আমরা পাবো। কাজেই আমরা সংশোধন প্রস্তাবটা মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে মেনে নেওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ কোরছি। এবং এই প্রস্তাবের সঙ্গে আর একটা কথা উল্লেখ কোরছি। Rule-making power বা নিয়ম তৈয়ার করিবার ক্ষমতার দ্বারা গভর্ণমেণ্ট অনেক সময় যা করেন তার ফলে যে জিনিষটা আইন সভায় পাশ করা হয় তা অন্য রকম হোয়ে যায়। এবং তাতে কোরে যে জিনিষটা ডান হাতে দেওয়া হয় সেটা আবার বাঁম হাতে ফিরিয়ে নেওয়া হয় এটা কবির কথা। আমার বন্ধু বোলেছেন কবির কথা বোলতে হবে না। সে যা হোক, এক হাত দিয়ে আর এক হাতে নেওয়া ঠিক নয়। সেই জন্য, আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে অনুরোধ কোরছি তাঁদের যে rule-making power বা নিয়ম প্রণয়ণের ক্ষমতাটা রয়েছে সেটা subject

to the approval of the Legislature বা আইন সভার অনুমোদন সাপেক্ষ যাতে হয় সেইটাই তাদের করা উচিত। এই কথা বোলে আমি আমার সংশোধনী প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত কোরছি।

**Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** Sir, I beg to accord my support to my friend Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti and in so doing I invite your particular attention to clause (2) "in the prescribed manner".

Sir, the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister has in the Statement of Objects and Reasons in explaining clause (2) stated "according to rules framed by the Provincial Government". If the Hon'ble Minister will kindly refer to his explanation in clause (2), he will find that he has stated that the rules will be framed with the permission of the Government. But in clause (2), it is stated "in the prescribed manner". There is nothing to give any power to the Government I hope he is alive to the consequences that unless there is anything in the Act itself authorising the Government to frame rules, it is at once out of court.

Now, Sir, apart from that, on the question of principle we are strongly opposed to any power in the shape of rule-making capacity to be given to the Government. Because you know, Sir, that the Bengal Legislature has become notorious for bye-laws and rules which have become more substantive than the Acts themselves. For example, the Bengal Municipal Act, the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act and so on and so forth As a matter of fact, controversial things are more to be found in the back-door appliances of rules than in the Acts themselves Here, Sir, as legislators we have a right to demand of the Government what idea the Government have in this connection for framing the rules Even if the rules are to be framed by the Government, they ought to have some clear idea in this connection, and we are not going to be a party to this sort of blind support to the Government in the matter of rule-making when the rules are not ready. Therefore on a question of principle we are opposed to it and I repeat before I sit down that the Statement of Objects and Reasons, so far as clause (2) is there, specifically asks for a rule to be given to Government; but the Act does not provide and in the Bengal Tenancy Act also there is no section which empowers the Government to frame rules. So I hope the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister will be alive to the legal difficulties and will drop this back-door power which he is now seeking.

The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.

(*After adjournment.*)

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Sir, I oppose both these amendments. Amendment No. 11 has been moved on the ground of unemployment. The honourable mover thinks that this will solve the question of unemployment. The object of this Bill is not to solve the question of unemployment. If Government wanted to tackle that problem, there were other methods of doing so.

Here we must look to the efficiency of the service, and as has been very clearly stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill, the present method has proved a failure on administrative grounds. Many notices have come back unserved. So Government have to devise some effective means of service, and that is why I oppose the amendment No. 11.

As regards the amendment No. 12 of Mr. Maiti, his arguments were that as the service has proved too costly, he does not want to leave the matter to Government, but wants them to submit their proposals before the Legislature and the Legislature would frame rules as to how the service should take place. Sir, my submission in reply to this is that this is going to be a very cumbrous and costly method. This is a small administrative detail with which, I venture to think, this House should not be troubled. As a matter of fact, Government retains already sufficient powers under section 189 of the Bengal Tenancy Act to frame rules for the mode of service and Mr. Sanyal in spite of his great ingenuity is not correct when he says that it will be ultra vires of the Act. I will just draw his attention to clause 2 of section 189, which prescribes the forms to be used and the mode of service of notices issued under this Act. So, Government is invested with sufficient power already under the Act to frame rules for this purpose. I do not think that there is any force in the argument advanced by Mr. Sanyal

Now, as regards the costliness, certainly Government will go into that question very carefully and that is why they want to do it through rules. Sir, it is not possible, as I hope the honourable members will realize, for this House to go into those details and to decide what amount should be fixed or how exactly the service should take place. There are certain administrative difficulties to be overcome and the rate of fees will have to be fixed with reference to those difficulties and facts. So, on these grounds I oppose both these amendments.

The motion of Mr. Md. Abdul Fazl that in clause 2, lines 4 and 5, for the words "shall in the prescribed manner serve the notices for which this section provides", the words "shall serve the notices through the agency of their peons" be substituted, was put to the House and lost.

The motion of Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti that in clause 2, in line 4, after the word "manner" the following words be inserted, namely:—

"subject to the approval of the Bengal Legislature;"

was then put to the House and a division taken with the following result:—

**AYES—65.**

Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Azimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya.
Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath.
Banerjee, Dr. Suresh Chandra.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prasad.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhawmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra.
Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Babu Mahim Chandra.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Ganguly, Mr. Pratul Chandra.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari.
Maitra, Mr. Surendra Mohan.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad.
Mukherji, Dr. Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Kishori Pati.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Shahedali, Mr.
Sinha, Srijut Maniendra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar.
Wahid Rahman, Maulvi.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

**NOES—104.**

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Kader, Mr. (alias Lal Meah).
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdulla-Al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Rashid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rashood, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Sahib Maulvi S.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abdus Shahood, Maulvi Md.
Abidur Reza Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Acharyya Chowdhury, Maharaja Sashi Kanta, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed, Hossain, Mr.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Basu, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Bell-Hart, Miss P. B.
Blomendeck, Mr. L. M.
Brown, Mr. A. C.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Babu Debendra Nath.
Edber, Mr. Upendranath.
Farhad Reza Chowdhury, Mr. Md.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).

Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Golam Sarwar Hossini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gomes, Mr. S. A.
Griffiths, Mr. C.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hasanuzzaman, Maulvi Md.
Hawkings, Mr. R. J.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi.
Mafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi.
Maguire, Mr. L. T.
Mahtab, Maharajkumar Uday Chand.
Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Marindin, Mr. F. J.
Miles, Mr. C. W.
Millar, Mr. C.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Muhammad Sulaiman, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Musharruf Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawsal Haque, Mr Syed.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Maulvi.
Rezaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Kshirod Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Roy, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Saheb Alam, Mr. Syed.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Sarker, the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Shamsul Huda, Maulana.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smith, Mr. H. Brabant.
Steven, Mr. J. W. R.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Total Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M.
White Head, Mr. R. B.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.

The Ayes being 65 and Noes 104, the motion was lost.

The motion that clause 2 stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

*Clause 3.*

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Sir, may I at this stage suggest that consideration of clause 3 may be postponed for the time being, because Government want to consider certain points in connection with that clause.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Is there any objection?

(As there was no objection, discussion on clause 3 was postponed.)

*Clause 4.*

**Maharaja SASHI KANTA ACHARYYA CHOWDHURY, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh:** I beg to move that in clause 4, line 5, after the words "tenures or holdings," the following words be inserted, namely:—

"belonging to the same landlord".

There will be difficulty, if the tenure or holding belongs to another landlord, in proving that the land has been encroached upon by a tenant of an adjacent landlord. In order to avoid complications, I want to add these few words.

**Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL:** I beg to move that in clause 4, in line 5, after the words "tenures or holdings", the words "within each estate of a landlord" be inserted.

The clause as it has been worded may create some difficulty. The same landlord may have two or three separate estates and there may be holdings of one tenant in one or two estates In that case there may be some difficulty. In order to avoid that difficulty each estate should be taken as a whole and if in that case the land is increased, the rent will also increase.

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I am afraid Maharaja Sashi Kanta Acharyya Chaudhury is under a misconception. Government are advised by their expert draftsmen that the draft is quite clear and the object which Maharaja wants to attain will be fully attained by the language of the Government Bill. So, it is unnecessary to add these words to the clause, because they will be quite redundant.

**Maharaja SASHI KANTA ACHARYYA CHOUDHURY, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh:** I don't want to press my amendment.

The motion that in clause 4, line 5, after the words "tenures or holdings", the following words be inserted, namely, "belonging to the same landlord", was then by leave of the House withdrawn.

The motion of Mr. Md. Abul Fazl that in clause 4, in line 5, after the words "tenures or holdings" the words "within each estate of a landlord" be inserted, was then put and lost.

The motion that clause 4 stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

*Clause 5.*

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** With regard to clause 5 also, I have a similar submission to make. We are not in a position to take up consideration of this clause now. I therefore submit that this clause be taken up later.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** So probably clause 6 and 7 also?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** About clause 7 there is no difficulty.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** To-morrow after the non-official Bills, if any time is left, we will take up discussion on the Ordinances.

## Adjournment.

It being 6 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Friday, the 8th December, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

## Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 8th December, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

### Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 213 members.

## STARRED QUESTIONS

### (to which oral answers were given)

### Employment of convicts in jail industry.

*51. **Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the year 1938-39—

(*i*) the number of convict prisoners in the different jails of Bengal; and

(*ii*) the number of them employed in jail industry?

(*b*) What are the various industries carried on in these jails?

(*c*) Are they run at a profit or at a loss?

(*d*) If it is run at a profit, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how much profit was made in various industries during the period?

(*e*) If there is a loss, what are the causes of such a loss?

(*f*) Are the convicts given any remuneration for doing such work in jail?

(*g*) If the answer to (*f*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how much remuneration on an average was earned by each labourer during the year?

(*h*) Was it paid in coin or kind?

(*i*) If the answer to (*f*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no such remuneration is given to them for the maintenance of their wives and children at home?

(*j*) Is the Hon'ble Minister contemplating of introducing this system in near future?

**MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin):** (*a*) Average figures for 1938 are given below. Figures for 1939 not yet available.

(*i*) 15,081 (excluding figures of sub-jails).

(*ii*) 5,913 (excluding figures of sub-jails).

(*b*) Price list of articles manufactured in the jails will show the various industries carried on in jails, a copy of which is placed on the Library table.

(*c*) At a profit.

(*d*) Rs. 2,62,522-9.

(*e*), (*g*) and (*h*) Do not arise.

(*f*) No.

(*i*) It has not hitherto been the accepted practice.

(*j*) The question is under consideration.

**Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দয়া করে বোলবেন কি কতদিন যাবৎ এই বিষয় তাঁদের বিচারাধীন আছে? আমার প্রশ্ন হোচ্ছে—with reference to (*j*).

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** During the current year.

**Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** এ বিষয়ে নিশ্চিতমতে পৌঁছিতে আর কতদিন লাগবে—মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দয়া করে বোলবেন কি?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** In another two or three months, I think.

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether Government has considered the desirability of giving a lump sum to convict industrialists at the time of their release as remuneration so that they can after their release open some business and earn a living?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I have already said that that proposal is under consideration. That is the basis on which we are thinking of framing our proposals.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** With reference to (d), will the Hon'ble Minister please enlighten us as to which account this amount of Rs. 2,62,522 has been credited and how this amount has been spent?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** The amount has been credited to the general revenues of the Province of Bengal.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please consider the desirability of setting apart and allocating this amount earned by labour convicts for their benefit alone?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Minister need not answer this question.

**Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain what he means when he says in (c)—at a profit—whether all the convicts in jails are taken into account or whether only those who are working in the industrial portion of the jails are calculated?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** When I said so I meant to say that it is not the jails that are run at a profit but that the articles manufactured there are sold at a profit; that is, the cost of the production is less than the prices that are obtained for them and on the manufacture of those articles we made a profit.

**Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** Do I understand the Hon'ble Minister to say that it means that between the price of the raw materials purchased and the sale of the manufactured products the difference is Rs. 2,62,522 and the cost of labour does not come in at all?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I believe the hon'ble member is correct in his assumption, but he has forgotten the cost of supervision as well as the cost of special staff that are necessary in certain departments

**Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what will be the state of affairs if the convicts are paid at a minimum rate of Rs. 17 per month?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** It will become an industry and not a jail product.

**Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether it will still yield a profit or entail a loss?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I believe there will be a loss.

**Acute tension in Hindu-Muslim relations in Noakhali district.**

*52. **Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether Government are aware of the existence of an acute tension in Hindu-Muslim relations in the district of Noakhali for some time past; and

(*ii*) whether any representation on behalf of the Hindus has been received by Government or their local officers in that connection?

(*b*) What steps, if any, have been taken to—

(*i*) ascertain the causes of this tension;

(*ii*) remove such causes and prevent their recurrence; and

(*iii*) ensure the safety of the life, honour and property of the Hindus of the place?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** (*a*) (*i*) I understand that there was some ill-feeling between the two communities but am informed that the communal situation is now normal.

(*ii*) The local officers received no such representation. Government received two representations in general terms

(*b*) (*i*) The main organisation from which a representation was received was informed that if they would enumerate the incidents which they had in mind with details of places and dates Government were quite prepared to have them investigated. To this communication I have not yet received any reply. I am reminding the organisation.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Do not arise.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** With reference to answer (*a*) (i) that the Hon'ble Minister was informed that the communal situation in Noakhali was now normal, may I enquire if within the course of the last two months forcible cutting of unripe paddy belonging to the Hindus have been indulged in in the villages of Lamchar, Karpur, Jagatpur, etc.——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am afraid that it is not a general question. Government have asked for detailed information. So pending that you can only ask a question in general terms. You cannot expect answers on an individual case like the one you are mentioning.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** I have got to get information, Sir, as to whether in spite of threats to Hindu property Government consider that the communal situation in Noakhali is normal.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Then put your question in general terms.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** If I cannot do that can I not ask for information?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am afraid you cannot do that.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if he is aware that in a number of villages even as late as the last few weeks forcible cutting of unripe paddy crop belonging to the Hindus has ben indulged in?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I have no information to that effect. But even if there was forcible paddy cutting, it does not show that it has been done on communal lines. It may be that there was difference of opinion between the tenants and the zamindars.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** With regard to certain hats in, for example, Raipur, Nandigram, Karpara markets, will the Hon'ble Minister please state if he is aware that boycott of these hats took place because they are hats belonging to the Hindus and is still continuing? And persons trying to go there for convenience are threatened and sometimes assaulted?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Again, I would like to state that if there is boycott of these hats and if this boycott is still continuing, it is continuing perhaps on the ground that in those hats people are realising abwabs and other illegal demands, and that is why the people are going to other hats. This boycott is not due to communal tension.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if he is aware that so far as the Garpara, Lamchar and Duttapara hats are concerned, the boycott was indulged in as the result of a speech of a certain member of this Assembly who delivered a speech entirely on communal lines?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I ask for notice.

**Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** Is it not a fact that boycott of this hat was preached only because the proprietors of these hats were Hindus, who objected to the open sale of beef in those hats?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I ask for notice.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state the name of the organisation referred to in his answer (*b*) (*i*)?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** The Hindu Mahasabha.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state as to who is the person who was addressed?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** The Secretary to the Hindu Mahasabha.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the Secretary of the Hindu Mahasabha who is present in Calcutta denies——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** How do you know? I am afraid, Dr. Sanyal, you cannot utilise a supplementary question for the purpose of giving out information. I hope you will realise that a supplementary question should not be put with that object in view but for eliciting further information on the subject. So your first question is perfectly all right as to the name of the organisation, but the question of denial of it is to give out information. I am afraid you cannot do that.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say what is the source of his information that the communal tension is now normal?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Commissioner of the Division.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has been acquainted by the Commissioner by his letter No. 812C., dated the 25th September, 1939, in which he acknowledges the existence of a communal tension and in which he says "I myself was assaulted——"

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order, order. That question does not arise.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division in course of a reply to one of his complainants has stated that although there is communal tension, I am trying to avoid prosecution even when a speech appears to be actionable.

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** No. May I draw the attention of the honourable member to my reply (*a*) (*i*) which states "I understand that there was some ill-feeling between the two communities, but I am informed that the communial situation is now normal"?

**Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the sources and bases for his reply that he has given just now that the tension is between the tenants and landlords and not between different communities?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Because it is obvious as this question has been agitating in the district of Noakhali for the last eight years. There is nothing new.

**Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** But I wanted to know the sources and bases and the Hon'ble Minister has not replied to it.

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** It is within my personal knowledge.

**Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the statement read out by Dr. Sanyal is correct or not?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he actually visited the affected areas and held enquiries to gather personal knowledge?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I certainly visited the place more than once and I know the situation fairly well.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that one member of the Assembly from Noakhali generally delivers highly objectionable communal speeches and that when some of his speeches were drawn attention to by the Hindu residents, the local officials were asked to send reporters, and if so, were any reporters sent?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Exception has been taken to the speeches of one of the M.L.A.'s from Noakhali but it is denied that those speeches were highly inflammatory or objectionable. Government have now made adequate arrangements to get authentic reports of the speeches delivered.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Is it a fact that in spite of repeated requests Government did not send official reporters to take full reports of the speeches delivered?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** That is not correct. We have made adequate arrangements now to take authentic reports.

**Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that a particular member of the Assembly has not made any speech in Noakhali during the last two months?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** It may be so, but I have no definite information.

**Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister been drawn to the details which have been published in to-day's paper under the signatures of Dr. Shyama Prosad Mookerjee and Mr. B. C. Chatterji?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I have seen the headlines but I have not read the statement as I have not had time to go through that yet.

**Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the immersion of the goddess Durga was obstructed in many places in Noakhali district, namely, Sandwip and other places?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I am not aware of that.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Next question.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** It is quite unfortunate, Sir, that on an important subject like this you will prevent us from putting further questions.

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I am quite prepared to answer questions *ad infinitum*, in order to give them a chance.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** But, Dr. Sanyal, you will realise that I have given the fullest facilities and what I want to impress upon you is that the right of putting supplementary questions in this House should not be made use of to aggravate the situation in any way. I would appeal to all the members to see to that. Subject to that condition, as a very special case, I am willing to allow one or more supplementary questions.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to a speech delivered at Chowmohani on 13th August, 1939, by Mr. Gholam Sarwar, in the course of which——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Dr. Sanyal, I am afraid, that question does not arise. You are supplying information.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if a full report of the speech of Maulvi Gholam Sarwar at Chowmohani had been received?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Not from official sources.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** What are the contents of that speech?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** As I have already stated we have got no official or authentic report. I received unofficially a copy of the speech purported to have been delivered by Maulvi Gholam Sarwar, but that speech has been denied to have been delivered by him.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Was any arrangement made for reporting the speech?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** No, not at that time, but I have now made adequate arrangements.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Since when the arrangement was made?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** During the last two months. When the controversy started over his speech there the Commissioner made definite proposals and now we have an adequate system by which authentic copies of speeches delivered are made.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has received any report of any speech purporting to have stated to the effect that the member concerned gave certain special treatment to Her Excellency——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. ABDUL KARIM:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is trouble between the proprietors of the *hats* who are Hindus and the local people, and that there is no communal tension there?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** That is so, I believe.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to the answer that he was aware that some ill-feeling between the two communities existed in the district, whether apart from carrying on some correspondence with the Hindu Mahasabha did he make any effort to allay the communal feelings?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** The local officials are taking every possible step to allay the ill-feelings which are created by mere propaganda work.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Apart from carrying on correspondence with the Hindu Mahasabha, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he himself took any action in the matter with a view to allay this communal suspicion and communal tension?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Of course. Our instructions to the local officers are to the same effect and they are acting on those instructions.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the actions he himself took to allay communal ill-feeling?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** The local officers are seeing the representatives of both the communities and advising them on what lines they should proceed to allay any communal ill-feeling.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the local officers called and discussed the situation with responsible non-communal persons in the district and, if necessary, from elsewhere in the province; if so, with whom and with what result?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I am talking of the local officers discussing the matter with the local people. I did not make any differentiation between the party represented by the honourable member here and the party represented by an honourable member there.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** My supplementary question is this: will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, apart from his surmise that the local officers must have taken the right steps, whether he actually on behalf of Government did take any

steps in a responsible manner to collect responsible men in the district who would be in a position to allay the communal tension? I want information regarding the names of such responsible men.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that all this agitation is due to the existence of a Muslim District Magistrate and some Muslim officials objected to by a certain section of the Hindu community?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many officers in that place are Hindus and how many Mussalmans?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Well, I think the proportion will be something less than 75 for the Muslims and a little over 25 for the Hindus. As far as the officers are concerned, I would like to tell the House one thing, viz., that Government are satisfied that there is no cause for this communal friction there, and all they are trying to do is to try and explain to the people not to listen to the mischievous propaganda.

**Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** With reference to (*b*)(*i*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the main organization from which these allegations are coming?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That has been answered.

**Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the organizers are the ex-detenus, since released?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** With reference to answers (*b*)(*ii*) and (*iii*) in which the Hon'ble Minister says "do not arise", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is intended to reply to answer (*iii*), viz., that of ensuring the safety of the life, property and honour of the Hindus of the place?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** No.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** My question is what steps, if any, have been taken to prevent their recurrence, and, secondly to ensure the safety of the life, honour and property of the Hindus of the place and the answer to this is "do not arise". May I take it that you do not think it necessary to ensure the safety of the life, honour and property of the Hindus?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** No, Sir. I think the honourable member knows very well what it means. It means the removal of such causes and preventing their recurrence and ensuring the safety of the life, honour and property of the Hindus—they are fully and more than fully protected. Therefore they "do not arise".

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any special steps have been taken in view of the answer to question (*a*)(*i*), viz., that there was some ill-feeling between the two communities and in view of that statement if any special arrangements have been made to ensure the safety of the life, property and honour of the Hindus?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** There was no necessity for any action simply because there existed a certain amount of temporary ill-feeling. Nothing has happened and there is no risk of loss of property, honour and life to anybody.

**Construction of Sarta bridge over the river Halda, Chittagong.**

*53. **Dr. SANAULLAH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how much money from the Motor Vehicles Reserve Fund do the Government propose to spend for the construction of the Sarta bridge over the river Halda on the Hathazari-Maghachari Provincial Trunk Road in the district of Chittagong; and

(*b*) how long has the scheme been held up?

**MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cassimbazar):** I received only a few days ago from the District Board, Chittagong, a plan and estimate for the bridge to which the hon'ble member refers. The plan and estimate, however, do not provide for a bridge with the specifications desired, and I have asked the Board to make the necesary revision.

**Committee appointed by Government to enquire into the incidence of rent.**

*54. **Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether the Committee appointed by the Local Government to enquire into the incidence of rent has been functioning?

(*b*) How many sittings of the Committee have taken place up to date and on which dates?

(*c*) Has the Committee done any work? If so, what?

(*d*) Has the Committee decided upon any plan of work? If so, what is that plan?

(*e*) When is the Committee expected to submit its report?

(*f*) Has the Hon'ble Minister attended any meeting of the Committee?

(*g*) If so, when and what has been done in those meetings?

**MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy):** (*a*) (*f*) Yes.

(*b*) Seven. 30th August, 7th and 8th November, 1938, 4th and 8th February, 17th August and 29th November, 1939.

(*c*) and (*d*) The Committee have collected certain information, examined the present law and decided after discussion to visit certain localities in January next to see local conditions.

(*e*) It is hoped that the Committee will be able to submit their report shortly after their return from the localities referred to in the reply to (*c*) and (*d*).

(*g*) On 4th and 8th February, 1939, and also on 29th November, 1939, *vide* replies to (*c*) and (*d*) above.

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the intention of the Committee to postpone the submission of their report till the Floud Committee submits its report?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Sir, I know nothing about the intention of the Committee; the Committee should be asked.

**Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কোশ্চেনটি কিসের উপর নির্ভর করে তিনি বলতে পেরেছেন যে the Committee will be able to submit their report shortly after their return from the localities?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** So far as I could ascertain, the Committee seemed to be very anxious to come to an early decision and that is what made me hope that the Committee would be coming to an early decision.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether free and unfettered opportunity will be given to the tenants' organizations, whether Proja Samities or Krishak Sabhas, to represent their viewpoints with regard to the incidence of rent in the course of the local investigations that the Committee proposes to undertake?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Yes, every facility will be placed at the disposal of the Committee, but certainly no opportunity should be given to local agitators to misrepresent facts?

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has not answered my question. My question is—will the Hon'ble Ministr be pleased to state whether it will be the policy of Government in connexion with these local investigations to brand all staunch workers of these organizations as local agitators and thereby exclude them?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Sir, local organizations, I do not think, have much to do with facts. Facts may be ascertained from the agriculturists themselves who pay rent

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government in this connexion objects to representations being made by organizations or by the tenants who are actually organized?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** No, Sir, Government do not object to anything so long as it is legitimate.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that the policy of Government in this connexion is actually to delude the unorganized peasants by taking individual statements from them?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** No, Sir, I repudiate that charge.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what then are the possible reasons of fears in the mind of the Government in allowing full facilities to peasant organizations and to organized bodies in the district or in the province?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Sir, there are legitimate organisations and there are illegitimate organisations of the peasants, and we shall give full facilities to legitimate organisations of peasants to place relevant facts.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Committee has been set up with a view to have a proper and legitimate report after a proper enquiry, or intended only to be a whitewash and a sham?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH HOY:** Sir, I think that is a reflection on the Committee and the Committee is a Committee of the House——

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Similarly, Sir, it is a reflection cast on the peasant organisations.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am afraid, Sir Bijoy, you have invited the question. You have said after appointment of the Committee what the Committee will do, so naturally you will have to reply to it.

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** The honourable member wanted certain information. I thought it was the duty of Government to supply information as far as possible. But certainly it is not possible for Government to anticipate the decision of the Committee.

**Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দয়া কোরে বোলবেন কি যে আপনারা যাদের illegitimate organisation বোলছেন সেই প্রকার organisation এর কাছ থেকে কমিটি যদি সাক্ষী নিতে চান তাহলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট আপত্তি কোরবেন কি না?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That is probably problematic. What has Government to do with it?

**Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** Government has got nothing to do, but when the Minister talks of legitimate and illegitimate organizations, he brings in——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I take it that the Government has absolutely no jurisdiction to interfere with the functions of the Committee. It is a Committee of the House.

**Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** It is a Committee appointed by the Government. It is not a Committee of the House. Outsiders are in this Committee and members have been selected by the Government.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I hope members will understand that at this earlier stage of constitutional development, it is desirable even through supplementary questions not to give that power to Government which it does not possess.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please enlighten us whether there has been any restriction whatsoever on the Committee to approach any organization whatsoever to have information for this purpose?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** No, Sir, the Committee has full freedom of action.

**Babu PREMHARI BARMA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what organizations are legitimate and what organizations are illegitimate?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বোলবেন কি local conditions study করবার জন্য যেখানে যাবার কথা Western Duars এর খাস মহাল ও তার মধ্যে পড়ে কি না ?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Not Western Duars at least.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please enlighten us whether there has been any direction whatsoever to the Committee saying that such and such organizations are legitimate organisations and such others are illegitimate organizations?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** No, Sir.

## Communal ratio in appointments made by District Magistrates and Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division.

*55. **Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the years 1937, 1938 and 1939, the number of ministerial appointments made both in the Upper and Lower Divisions—

(i) by each of the District Magistrates of the Rajshahi Division; and

(ii) by the Divisional Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division?

(*b*) How many of them were given to the—

(*i*) Muhammadans; and

(*ii*) Scheduled Castes?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

**Mr. MADHUSUDAN SARKER:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has issued any specific order to the Magistrate of each district of the Rajshahi Division to observe the communal ratio decided by Government?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Yes, Sir.

**Release of political prisoners.**

*56. **Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA CANGULI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate to reconsider their decision on the question of the release of political prisoners?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** (*a*) No.

(*b*) Government's policy in this matter is explained in Press communiques, dated the 22nd November, 1937, 25th September, 1938, and 7th July, 1939, and in the resolution, dated the 13th November, 1939, copies of which are placed on the Library table.

**Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to reconsider the question in view of the fact that members of the Legislature were not given any opportunity before the final decision was arrived at apart from the consideration of the decision of the Committee?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Reconsider in what way?

**Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Reconsider the question as regards the decision embodied in the resolution, "consult the opinion of the members of this House in some shape or other for the purpose of reconsidering the decision?"

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I think this question can be raised at the Budget time. It is not very far off now.

**Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** So far as the budget time is concerned, will not the Hon'ble Minister agree that it is yet about two months or so when the Budget discussion will arise in this House, and in view of that will he not consider the urgency of the matter although there is no hungerstrike on?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I do not think, Sir, there is anything urgent about it, and I think two months' delay will not make much difference.

**Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider whether it is not a fact that the decision of the Committee with regard to these prisoners was based almost entirely upon the nature of the offences with which they were charged and of which they were convicted, the facts of those particular cases, and not upon what has transpired subsequently?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I do not understand what the honourable member means by "what transpired subsequently".

**Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to recall that the recommendations of the Committee in this respect and the decision of the Government thereon were based entirely upon the facts of the particular cases in which these prisoners figured as accused persons, and not upon any other circumstances which arose subsequent to their conviction?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I do not think that is entirely correct, because, they were granted interviews, and the way in which they answered questions, the statements they made and all these were taken into consideration.

**Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to agree that the decision as embodied in the resolution was based almost entirely, if not entirely, upon the facts of the cases in which these prisoners figured as accused persons?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Yes, I believe that is so, but I think the real question is fully explained in the Government communiqués that appeared on, I think, 25th September, 1938, and 7th July, 1939.

**Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** If it is a fact that the decision of the Committee was based entirely on consideration of the facts of those particular cases as embodied in the resolution of the Government, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to reconsider the matter in the light of what has happened subsequently after their conviction?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I think Government have very carefully and very fully explained the policy of release and in explaining that policy they have taken into consideration all that has happened subsequently.

(Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta rose to put a supplementary question.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Gupta, do you want to put any supplementary questions on this?

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Then you had better put them after the prayer interval

The House was at this stage adjourned for 15 minutes.

(*After adjournment.*)

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if having regard to the fact that punishment is not punitive but reformative, these political prisoners who have given up their terroristic activities should not have their release effected?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** That they have given up their terroristic activites is an extremely debatable point. If a man who has committed a crime gives an undertaking that in future he won't commit any more crime, we are not prepared to release him. If once a man commits a crime, how can we expect that he would not do so again. Everyone who has committed a crime may be prepared to give such an undertaking.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Advisory Committee was constituted for the purpose of consulting the opinions of the different sections of the House in the matter of framing the policy of Government with regard to the release of political prisoners?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I am afraid that the honourable member has entirely misunderstood the purpose for which the Committee was appointed. Government initiated a policy under which

they could effect their release, and to give effect to that policy one of the things they suggested was the appointment of a Committee which would go into the cases of these prisoners individually, and to give weight to that Committee and to have confidence of the public, they (Government) took representatives from all parties of the Legislative Assembly, and appointed that Committee. It was never the point as to whether the question of release should be taken into consideration by the House or not.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Having regard to the opinion now expressed by the Hon'ble Minister, will he be pleased to state why should not an opportunity be given to the House to express its opinion regarding the policy of release adopted by the Government?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Government are quite prepared to give an opportunity to the House if there is any available date. If the honourable member had tabled a resolution (he could have brought it up, because there was ample time for doing that), Government would have been very glad to discuss it this session and if that were not possible at the next session.

**Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what new circumstances Government may be in a position to reconsider the question of the release of political prisoners?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** For the present I do not contemplate any new condition under which we can release these prisoners.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to fix a date in this session for the purpose of discussing the policy regarding the release of political prisoners?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I think there was an adjournment motion to this effect, but it was disallowed. If Government is willing to fix a time, it would be quite possible to fix a date later.

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** We are very heavily booked. If any date be available, we will be very glad to discuss the question.

**Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** I tabled an adjournment motion for the purpose of considering the decision of the Government regarding the release of political prisoners. But for some technical

reason, that motion could not be admitted. Now that the Hon'ble the Home Minister has expressed an opinion that he would be agreeable to have this matter discussed in the House—and it is only question of time—may I request you, Mr. Speaker, to see if an early date cannot be fixed for discussing this matter.

## UNSTARRED QUESTION

**(answer to which was laid on the table)**

### Protective measures against attacks by enemy bombing 'planes.

**14. Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Political) Department be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken by the Provincial Government to protect the life and property of the citizens of Calcutta and suburbs and of the industrial areas of Bengal against attacks by enemy bombing 'planes during the war?

(*b*) What amounts, if any, have been spent and sanctioned for the purpose?

(*c*) Has any representation been made to the Central Government for making adequate arrangements for Calcutta and suburbs, and for providing necessary funds for the same?

(*d*) If so, with what results?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** (*a*) Yes. An Air Raid Precautions Committee has been set up and is functioning for a number of months. It consists of certain officials and representatives of public utility services and other interests and its purpose is to advise Government as to the steps that should be taken for the passive defence of the civil population in the event of air raids in Calcutta and the neighbouring industrial areas in the 24-Parganas, Howrah and Hooghly. The outbreak of war has resulted in an inevitable quickening of activity with the consequent need for some reorganisation. A Committee to direct Air Raid Precautions organisation in Calcutta itself has therefore recently been set up.

A comprehensive scheme for the protection of the municipal areas and factories in these areas has been drawn up and printed and copies have been circulated in large numbers through the Chambers of Commerce and Municipalities.

To expedite the work an officer has been placed on special duty to assist the Aid Raid Precautions Committee and the other authorities responsible for the detailed organisation.

The warning system has been completed and tested and arrangements are being made to supply hooters and sirens in those places where the tests indicated that such were necessary.

Air Raid Precautions personnel have already been selected in many areas and the work is progressing in those areas where the work is not yet complete.

Rules for the behaviour of the public at the time of an air raid have been gazetted.

Instruction has been given to the public by radio talks and propaganda through the medium of leaflets is under preparation while systematic courses of instruction have been given for some months past to Air Raid Precautions personnel and to the general public, some under Government's direct control and others organised by such bodies as the St. John Ambulance, the Young Women's Christian Association and the Women's Emergency service;

Over 600 men belonging to the Police Force, Municipalities, the Port Trust, and the Railways and public utility concerns have already received training.

The Fire Brigade has been provided with extra equipment and both the Fire Brigade and the Police Force have been expanded by the enrolment of auxiliaries to deal with any such event as an air raid.

Air Raid Precautions Committees have also been established in Chittagong and Asansol and they are engaged in preparing plans for the protection of the civil population in those areas on much the same lines as the Calcutta Committee. These Committees have already made much progress in their work.

(*b*) Up to date some Rs. 96,543 has been sanctioned and Rs. 53,915 spent.

(*c*) and (*d*) The Government of India are responsible for active air defence measures and no representation by this Government in this regard would either be necessary or called for. So far as passive air defence is concerned this Government is undertaking such measures as it considers necessary in the course of which there has been considerable correspondence with the Government of India.

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any possibility of air raid in Calcutta judging matters from the geographical position of air bases of different countries of Europe and other continents?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain the passive air defence and why he thinks that the methods suggested by the different air raid precaution committees are enough to give protection to every single individual of Calcutta?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Personally I might explain before the question is answered that I feel that whatever might be the nature of the circumstances, it is not desirable to give wide publicity to the nature of protection which we are contemplating at a time when, as some say, there may be a contingency of air attack. It will almost be a folly on the part of any Government or on the part of any State to publish the fact that they are protected or unprotected. I hope the honourable members will realise their responsibility in putting supplementary questions. May I also warn the Government that they should also give their replies cautiously.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** In this connection will you also be pleased to make this difference in distinction between the two—it is one thing to give publicity to the air raid precaution in India and another thing to give publicity in foreign countries?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Since I have made that suggestion, I feel that if there is any desire on the part of the House to discuss this question of air raid precaution not only for Calcutta but also for other places, the best thing would be for the leading members to discuss this matter with Government outside this House and not inside it.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** This question was put by me but there was not the slightest intention on my part to elicit such information which might endanger the safety of the country.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I know; I was nervous about the geographical expression of Mr. Hashemy. (Laughter.)

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal consider it desirable to request the Government of India to take some active air defence in Calcutta?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** As far as that is concerned, I feel that the Government of India are entirely responsible in this matter and I am sure that they will take necessary steps for the protection of this place.

**Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE:** May I suggest to the Hon'ble the Home Minister if it is not correct that talking about air raid precaution in Calcutta would be a talk in the air? (Laughter.)

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I do not think it is so bad as that. There is a possibility of air raid which we cannot ignore. I may remind the House that if it was only a question of geographical position, Karachi would not have dim lights in the town.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what will happen if the dome of this House is bombed during an air raid? (Laughter.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** If there be an air raid, for the time being you will have to look after yourselves (laughter).

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if air raid precaution is a new service and the amount allotted as per reply (*b*) has been for a new service without the sanction of the Legislature?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I ask for notice. I do not quite follow the honourable member.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge, who is an old member of the Cabinet, be pleased to state if air raid precaution is a new expenditure and under the accounts rules regarded as a new service? If that is correct, whether a token vote of the Assembly ought to have been taken on this or not? Whether that was taken or is going to be taken?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I do not like to give a definite reply. As it has been put it appears that the honourable member is correct. But is is difficult for me to make any statement just now without examining the matter.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if the Government of Bengal made a representation to the Government of India to find all the expenses on account of air raid precautions,—passive and active—to be paid out of the military budget?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I do not want to say anything just now beyond this, that we are in communication with the Government of India on this subject.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether the construction of underground dug-outs is in the scheme of the air raid precautions of the Hon'ble Minister?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** I submit, Sir, this is an open public, civic question—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am sorry,—whatever it might be, and I take the full responsibility for it,—I will not allow any supplementary questions to be put regarding the steps which have been taken in connection with the air raid precaution.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if Government is in a position to give an assurance to this House and to the public that adequate arrangements will be made for protecting the lives and properties of the citizens in and around Calcutta, by active and passive air raid arrangements?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I think it will cost millions of rupees if we were to take adequate steps for the protection of civilian life and property: only on the passive defence side alone it will cost millions.

**Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if he contemplates taking special precautions to protect the elegant and beautiful dome of this House?

## Adjournment Motion.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Sir, I sent in a notice of an adjournment motion, may I known what has happened to that?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** About what?

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** About a prisoner in police custody being brutally tortured which has just come to light.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am afraid I cannot find among my papers such a motion sent by you. Here I have got hold of one given notice of by Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Yes, Sir, it is the same as the one of which I gave notice. If my motion is not readily traceable, then Mr. Gupta may move his, and that will serve my purpose. It is about one Nripendra Kumar Chakrabarty.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Unfortunately, the position regarding this adjournment motion is that it reached the department after 1 o'clock, so the necessary steps could not be taken. So I put it back till Monday when I will consider the matter.

**Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI:** On a point of order, Sir. Can an honourable member run away with a proposition submitted to you, Sir, by another member, and can he call a motion, which he did not submit, as "my" motion?

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Well, it is an identical proposal simultaneously submitted.

## GOVERNMENT BILL.

### The Bengal Jute Regulation Bill, 1939.

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Sir, I beg to present the interim report of the Select Committee on the Bengal Jute Regulation Bill, 1939. In doing so I ask that the time for the submission of the final report may be extended to the 12th December, 1939.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Bengal Jute Regulation Bill, 1939, asks time to present the final report of the Select Committee on the Bengal Jute Regulation Bill, 1939, till the 12th December, 1939. Is it the pleasure of the House to give him this time?

The House agreed.

## NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS' BILLS.

### The Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1937.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** We will now take up non-official Bills. Mr. Das Gupta may now finish his speech on his Bill.

**Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA :** সভাপতি মহাশয়, গতদিন আমি এখানে বাংলার মৎস্যজীবিদের দুরবস্থার কথা বিবৃত কোরতে আরম্ভ কোরেছিলাম। বাংলা দেশে কেন পৃথিবীর কোন দেশেই এপ্রকার অবহেলিত, উৎপীড়িত, অত্যাচারিত এবং বিপন্ন সম্প্রদায় খুব কমই আছে। আজ এই বিংশ শতাব্দীর ১৯৪০ খৃষ্টাব্দেও যে এই প্রকার আইনের খসড়া আনতে আমাকে বাধ্য হতে হোচ্ছে এটা গভর্ণমেণ্টের, দেশের পক্ষে এবং সকলের পক্ষেই কলঙ্কের বিষয়। এবং বিষয়টা আরো বেশী কলঙ্কের হবে—যদি এই আইন অবিলম্বে প্রণয়ন হবার পক্ষে কোন প্রকার বাধার সৃষ্টি হয়।

এখন আমি একে একে এই মৎস্যজীবিদের দুর্দ্দশার কথা বর্ণনা কোরছি। প্রথমতঃ এই মৎস্যজীবিদের যে দুর্দ্দশা তার কারণ জমিদার আর গভর্ণমেণ্ট এবং সব চেয়ে বেশী যারা ইজারাদার তারাই। এ সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেণ্টও অনেক দিন ধোরে অনুসন্ধান কোরে আসছেন এবং Sir Bijoy Prasad বোলেছেন যে তিনিও একটা রিপোর্ট পেয়েছেন। জানিনা সে রিপোর্টের ফলাফল কি। এসম্বন্ধে পূর্ব্বেও যে সমস্ত অনুসন্ধান হোয়েছিল তারও বিবরণ আছে। এক সময়ে Sir K. G. Gupta এই Fishery Departmentএর ভারপ্রাপ্ত officer ছিলেন। তিনি এ সম্বন্ধে একখানা পুস্তক প্রচার করেন—তার নাম হচ্ছে Fisheries of Bengal. ঐ পুস্তকের ১৩ পৃষ্ঠায় লিখিত আছে—"The actual catchers and carriers are not so well off as the middle man. The income of an ordinary fish catcher working with parties or by himself varies from Rs. 4 to Rs. 12 a month." অন্য আর একখানা গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রকাশিত পুস্তক—Annual Report of the working of Co-operative Societies in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1925-26 ; তাতে লেখা আছে—"As an illustration of the exactions which are otherwise levied from fishermen, it may be mentioned that on enquiry made a few years ago into some of the river fisheries in Bengal, it was found that in a particular river fishery out of total catches valued at Rs. 80,000, Rs. 1,000 went to the landlord, Rs. 20,000 to the actual fishermen and the remainder to the middle men." কাজেই এই আশি হাজার টাকার মধ্যে মাত্র বিশ হাজার টাকা পেয়েছে যারা কষ্ট কোরে মাছ ধরে তারা। এখন গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাঁর নিজের রিপোর্টে স্বীকার করেছেন ১৯২৫ এবং ১৯২৬ খৃষ্টাব্দে। আর আজ ১৯৩৯ খৃষ্টাব্দের শেষ হবার আর মাত্র কদিন আছে। এপর্য্যন্তও গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাদের দুর্গতি দূর করবার মতন কিছু কোরেছেন বোলে যে বোলতে পারবেন সে ভরসা আমি করি না। বরঞ্চ তাঁরা যা কোরছেন তা আমি বিবৃত কোরছি।

এখন আমি মৎস্যজীবিরা কি কি ভাবে নির্য্যাতিত হয় তার সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ দিচ্ছি। প্রথমত fishery যারা ইজারা নেয় সেই সব ইজারাদারেরা মৎস্যজীবিদের কাছ থেকে একটা কর আদায় করে—সর্ব্ব প্রাথমিক কর, সেটার নাম হোচ্ছে "ভিট্টাল"। তার পরে দ্বিতীয় নম্বরের কর হোচ্ছে যখন ভিটা থেকে নৌকা নিয়ে নদীতে ভাসাবে তখন যে আর একটা কর দিতে হবে তার নাম হোচ্ছে ভাসান। সে যে জলে তরী ভাসাবে সেজন্য যে খাজনা তার পাঁচগুণ বেশী সেলামি দিতে হয় সেটা স্থলে বলা হয় সেলামি আর জলে বলা হয় ভাসান। তারপরে এখানেই শেষ নয়। তৃতীয় নম্বরে যারা মৎস্য ধোরবে—তারা যে ভোগ কোরতে পারবে সে সম্ভাবনাও নাই। তাদের ভিট্টাল দিতে হবে, ভাসান দিতে হবে—তার সঙ্গে দিতে হবে—সরকারী বোলে আর এক রকমের খাজনা, সেটা হোচ্ছে—জমিদার বা ইজারাদারের জন্য একটা দিন ঠিক কোরে দিতে হবে, সেদিন সমস্ত মৎস্যজীবিরা দল বেঁধে জমিদার বা ইজারাদারের জন্য মৎস্য ধোরবে, সেটাকে বলে সরকারী দিন।

এবং যে সমস্ত দল মাছ ধরে তাদের প্রত্যেকের নাম—বোপা (?) হয়তো সাতটা দল মৎস্য ধোরছে, তার মধ্যে দুটো দল অনুপস্থিত, তাদের অবস্থা পরে বোঝা যাবে কিন্তু তারা যে মৎস্য ধোর্‌তে পার্‌তো—তা ও আদায় হবে অপরের কাছ থেকে। অর্থাৎ একজনে যদি অন্যের কারণ দেয় তার নাম হলো পলাতকা। তারপরে আর একটা হোচ্ছে যখন মাছ ধরা হয় জল-মহালে—তখন যারা মাছ ধরে তাদের যে সমস্ত জিনিষ পত্রের দরকার, সে সব তারা বিশেষ বিশেষ লোকের কাছ থেকে কিন্‌তে বাধ্য। যে সব লোককে ইজারাদার বা জমিদার ঠিক কোরে দেবে—তার বাইরে থেকে যদি তারা কেনে তাহলে তাদের জরিমানা দিতে হয়। এবং তার উপর আদায় হয় সেটাকে বলে হাসিল। যখন মাছ ধরে বিক্রী করে তখন তাদের কাছ থেকে প্রত্যেক টাকা প্রতি এক আনা, ছপয়সা, দুই আনা পর্য্যন্ত দিতে হয় ইজারাদার বা জমিদারদের। তারপরে আরো আছে। যখন ইজারাদার বা জমিদারের বাড়ীতে কোন ক্রিয়া কর্ম্ম পড়ে—তখন বিনা পয়সায় তাদের মাছ যোগাতে হবে—তার নাম হোচ্ছে "যোগান"। এ ছাড়া আরো অনেক আছে সে সব সবিস্তারে বর্ণণা কোরতে গেলে একটা বৃহৎ অভিধান হোয়ে উঠবে।

তাদের বিপদ ইজারাদারের হাত এড়িয়েই শেষ হয় না। যখন তাদের মাছ চালান দিতে হয় তখন তাদের ভাগ্যে দুর্ভোগ কম ঘটে না। প্রথমেই আমি বোল্‌ছি গোয়ালন্দের কথা,—যেখান থেকে পদ্মা নদীর বিস্তর মাছ চালান হয়। সেখানে মৎস্যজীবিরা নিজেদের ইচ্ছামত মাছ চালান দিতে পারে না। ফরিয়াদের মধ্যবর্ত্তীতায় চালান দিতে হয় এবং রেলের বাবুদের ঘুষ দিতে হয়—তার নাম হোলে—বর্‌খা (?) এটাতো গেলো, জমিদার বা ইজারাদারদের অধীনে যারা তাদের অবস্থা। গভর্ণমেণ্টের অধীনে যারা তাদের দুর্দ্দশাও কম নয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট ও এই সব ইজারাদারদের কাছেই পত্তন দেন তাঁদের জলমহাল। গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাঁদের Estate Manual এ লিখেছেন ১৯৩২ সালে,—In settling fisheries preference should be given to a Co-operative Society of fishermen; and in the absence of such a Society, leases should be given to one or more selected fishermen; failing this to one or more carefully selected persons who are not fishermen. The practice of settling Government fisheries by open and unrestricted auction has been forbidden. Rule 259. এখানে—মন্ত্রীমহাশয় হয়তো বোল্‌বেন,—আমাদের মৎস্যজীবিদের জন্য দরদ আছে, আমরা তাদের জন্য ব্যবস্থা কোরেছি। কিন্তু আসলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট কোরছেন কি? সে বিষয় আমি দুটো ঘটনা বোল্‌ছি। আমার জেলা বরিশাল এবং আমার জেলার পার্শ্ববর্ত্তী ফরিদপুর জেলার কাঠিকপুরে একটা জল-মহাল আছে—আর একটা আছে—নয়ানদী রথখোলা। সেখানকার সমস্ত গরীব মৎস্যজীবি ১৯২৭ খৃষ্টাব্দে ফরিদপুরের ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট মিঃ হিলের কাছে উপস্থিত হয় এবং তার কাছে আবেদন করে যে, "গভর্ণমেণ্টের আইনের যে ধারা আছে সেই ধারা অনুসারে এবারকার ইজারা আমাদের দিতে হবে"। মিঃ হিল্ বোলেছিলেন "ঠিক এবারকার ইজারা তোমাদেরই দেবো"। সেই হিসাবে তারা মাদারিপুরের মহকুমা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের কাছে উপস্থিত হয়, তিনিও বোল্লেন "হাঁ তোমাদেরই ইজারা দেয়া হবে"। কিন্তু তারপর হুকুম হলো—"তোমাদের বারোশত টাকা আগাম দিতে হবে"। তারাও বারোশত টাকা আগাম দেয়। হঠাৎ গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে বলা হয় কাঠিকপুরের জমিদার চার হাজার টাকা আগাম দিতে চায়, তাকেই দেওয়া হবে। তারা বোল্লে—আমরাও চার হাজার টাকাই আগাম দেবো। শেষ পর্য্যন্ত কাঠিকপুরের জমিদারকেই সে জল-মহাল ইজারা দেওয়া হয়। এই ভাবেই—গভর্ণমেণ্টের আইন কানুনের দ্বারা পরিচালিত হোয়ে আস্‌ছে। তারপরে কাঠিকপুরের

জমিদার—তিনি হয়তো বোলবেন—"আমি মন্ত্রীর আত্মীয়, (laughter and interruption) সুতরাং গভর্ণমেণ্টের আইন আমার উপর খাটবে কেন; আমাদের সুবিধামত হবে আইনের প্রয়োগ এবং এতেই আইনের সার্থকতা।" এর চেয়েও খারাপ অবস্থা আমাদের বরিশালে, যেখানে tidal navigable river,—সেখানে সমস্ত লোকেই মাছ ধোরতে পারবে, সেখানে জমিদার বা আর কেউ কাওকে বাধা দিতে পারে না। সেই অনুসারে বরিশালের কীর্ত্তনখোলা নদীতে বহু বৎসর ধোরে মৎস্যজীবিরা মাছ ধোরছে। হঠাৎ বছর দুই আগে বরিশালের ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট একজনকে ঐ জায়গা ইজারা দেন, মৎস্যজীবিরা তাতে আপত্তি করে। তাদের সে আপত্তি কিছুমাত্র গ্রাহ্য করা হয় না। তারা হাইকোর্টের একটা মোকদ্দমার রায় উপস্থিত করলো—যেখানে হাইকোর্টের জজেরা বলেছেন যে navigable and tidal riverএ কারো অধিকার নাই মৎস্যজীবিদের বঞ্চিত করার; কিন্তু তাতেও তাদের কিছু অব্যাহতি হ'লনা। কাজেই দেখা যাচ্ছে মৎস্যজীবিদের সম্বন্ধে যে ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে তাতে তাদের জলে কুমীর আর ডাঙ্গায় বাঘ। গভর্ণমেণ্টের কাছে গেলেও যা জমিদারের কাছে গেলেও তাই। কোন দিক দিয়েই নিষ্কৃতি নাই।

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Das Gupta, I hope in justice of the other Bills and the Resolutions, you will finish your speech soon.

**Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** I shall finish within half an hour because I want to give a detailed description.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** In that case by the time you distribute the fishes, the other Bills and the Resolutions will be dead. I find that you are neither kind to the fish nor the flesh. (Laughter.)

**Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** বর্ত্তমানে এই অবস্থার প্রতিকারের জন্য তারা গঠন করে সমবায় সমিতি, মৎস্যজীবিরা ১৯৩৫ খৃষ্টাব্দের একটা বঙ্গীয় মৎস্যজীবি সমবায় সমিতি গঠন করেন। এবং ১৯৩৭ খৃষ্টাব্দ পর্য্যন্ত তা নিয়ে গভর্ণমেণ্টের কাছে অনেক দরবার করেন এবং আমাদের মন্ত্রী মাননীয় মুকুন্দ বিহারী মল্লিকের কাছে ঘোরা ফেরা করেন। কিন্তু আজ পর্য্যন্তও তাদের গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে recognition দেওয়া হয়েছে কি না জানিনা। (Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: দেওয়া হয় নাই।) আর একজন সভ্য বোলছেন যে দেওয়া হয় নাই। কাজেই গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে বলেন মৎস্যজীবিদের সমবায় সমিতি হলেই তাদের অবস্থার পরিবর্ত্তন হবে—সে কথার কোন সার্থকতা নাই। কারণ গভর্ণমেণ্টের লোকদের চোখ যেন অন্ধ হোয়ে গেছে এবং কানও বধির হোয়ে গেছে। তাই তারা এ সমস্ত বিষয় দেখতেও পান না, বা এ সব বিবরণ তাদের কর্ণকুহরে প্রবেশও করে না। এই যখন অবস্থা, তখন দরিদ্র মৎস্যজীবি সম্প্রদায় যারা তাদের রক্ষা করে আমাদের এই Assemblyর অগ্রবর্ত্তী হোয়ে, আমি যে বিলটা উপস্থিত কোরেছি—এবং আমি যে Select Committeeর কথা বোলছি, যদি বিলের মধ্যে ভুল ত্রুটি কিছু থাকে তা সংশোধন কোরে যাতে এটাকে ভালো কোরে তৈরী করা যায় সেইজন্য Select Committeeতে দেওয়ার যে প্রস্তাবটা সকলে গ্রহণ কোরবেন এবং গভর্ণমেণ্ট এটাকে স্বীকার কোরে নেবেন। স্বীকার কোরে নিয়ে গভর্ণমেণ্ট মৎস্যজীবি সম্প্রদায়কে বাঁচাবেন। আমি এই আইনের ধারা সম্বন্ধে এখানে আর আলোচনা কোরবোনা। আমি যখন Select Committeeতে এটাকে দিতে প্রস্তাব কোরছি, Select Committeeই এ সম্বন্ধে সব কিছু আলোচনা কোরবেন। আমি আশা করি মন্ত্রীমহাশয় আমার এই অতি সঙ্গত প্রস্তাবটাকে স্বীকার কোরে নেবেন।

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1937, be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1940.

Sir, Government fully appreciates the principle underlying this Bill, but they are afraid they cannot agree that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee without more facts in their possession.

Sir, last year, Government appointed a Special Officer to investigate into this problem. That officer has just submitted a report. It is a very voluminous report and a very valuable report too. That report is being just printed and Government would naturally require time to go through the report and to examine the recommendations of the Special Officer before they could decide their line of action. So in the meantime I think it will be worth while to have more facts and public opinion on this important problem. With these few words, Sir, I move that the Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon.

**Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** আমি একটা কথা জিজ্ঞাসা কোরছি মন্ত্রীমহাশয়কে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে যে Special Officer নিযুক্ত কোরেছিলেন তার view examine করবার পর এ সম্বন্ধে Government থেকে কোন পরিকল্পনা করার কিছু আছে কি ?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Sir, Mr. Rasik Lal Biswas wants to know whether Government would like to introduce any Bill after examining the recommendations of the Special Officer. Sir, it is very difficult for me to state at this stage what will be the policy of Government, but certainly they will carefully investigate the whole problem and then come to a decision.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1940, was then put and a division taken with the following result :—

**AYES—106.**

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdulla-al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Rashid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Sahib Maulvi S.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md.
Abul Qasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed, Hossain, Mr.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Maulvi.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Basu, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Blomenstock, Mr. L. M.
Brown, Mr. A. O.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirti Bhusan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Fazlul Qunder, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).

Golam Sarwar Hossiel, Mr. Shah Syed.
Griffiths, Mr. G.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi.
Mafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi.
Maguire, Mr. L. T.
Mahtab, Maharajkumar Uday Chand.
Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Marindin, Mr. F. J.
Miles, Mr. C. W.
Millar, Mr. C.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Solaiman, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawai Haque, Mr. Syed.
Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K. C. I. E.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Ray Choudhury, Mr. Birendra Kishore.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Kshirod Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Saheb Alam, Mr. Syed.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Sarker, the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smith, Mr. H. Brabant.
Steven, Mr. J. W. R.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi.

NOES—67.

Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Azimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya.
Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath.
Banerjee, Dr. Suresh Chandra.
Barma, Babu Prombari.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Barman, Babu Upendra Nath.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra.
Chakraborty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chakraborty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Mr. Manmohan.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Ganguly, Mr. Prafui Chandra.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Goswami, Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari.
Maitra, Mr. Surendra Mohan.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Mukherjee, Mr. S.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Kamakrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.

Roy, Mr. Kishori Pati.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr. M.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Wahur Rahman, Maulvi.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

The Ayes being 106 and the Noes 67 the motion was carried.

## The Transfer of Property (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1939.

**Mr. SURENDRA MOHAN MAITRA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave of this House to introduce a Bill that stands in my name, namely, the Transfer of Property (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1939.

The Secretary read the short title of the Bill.

**Mr. SURENDRA MOHAN MAITRA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the said Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st of March, 1940.

Sir, I shall be very brief in explaining as to why I introduce this Bill. Representing as I do a very large urban area I have felt the difficulties of tenants-at-will who live in the non-agricultural areas. I know that a Committee was brought into being some time ago by the Government to go into this question. I do not know what that Committee has done, but we have been flooded with complaints from various sources that unless some relief is given to the tenants-at-will against the eviction by the landlords, the position of the tenant-at-will will become more and more precarious. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister in his lucid moment was pleased to issue a communiqué giving some assurance to the tenants-at-will and giving a mild warning to the landlords. We thought that following that the Government would introduce a Bill affording protection to those tenants. But unfortunately we do not find any light as yet to show the mind of the Government. The result of that communiqué has been—I know from my own personal experience—that a large number of notices for eviction has been given under section 106 of the Transfer of Property Act, and some suits have already been instituted to evict the tenants from their holdings. It was for the purpose practically of provoking the Government either to adopt my Bill or to bring in a new Bill that I have introduced this Bill. The feeling is also there, which I do not want to shut out, that this subject being under the portfolio of the Knight of Chakdighi, himself a big landlord and the representative of the landlords in this House,—he may not be very prompt to give adequate and timely relief to these unfortunate tenants. We have found that tenants having substantial structures for a long time have been subjected to the legalised high-handedness of the landlords, legalised because section 106 of the Transfer of Property Act gives them right to evict those tenants by giving them notices to quit, but they are totally

oblivious of the extreme hardship which these tenants feel. I know some time before in Bajitpur in Mymensingh, an area within my constitutency, in a cold night a Muhammadan gentleman with his family and a suckling was turned out by a landlord after having got a decree for eviction. Now this is merely an instance in a long catalogue which I can give before the House, but which I do not propose to do, because I do not want to tax the patience of the House. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will agree to my motion that the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion. I do not want to rush it through; I want to convince the Government by getting the public opinion whether my Bill should get the support of the Government or not. I hope also that because it has come from this side of the House, the Government will not try to shut it out, but give adequate relief to those tenants whose precarious rights have been taken advantage of by the rapacious landlords to oppress them unnecessarily and without any reason. With these few words, I move that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st March, 1940.

The Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur, rose in his seat.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Nawab Saheb, do you want to speak?

**The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur:** Yes, Sir, because so far as the Transfer of Property Act is concerned, it is within my jurisdiction. The real point is this that in the introduction stage Government have not opposed any Bill, and when my friend wants to send it for circulation, the Government would not also oppose it. But after all the opinions are collected, the Government will have to decide. Government accept the principle of the Bill, and I may tell my friend that there is lot in what he says in his speech. Government after considering all the points will themselves bring in a Bill of this nature. Hence, I think my friend will be well-advised to withdraw his Bill and allow the Government to bring in a Bill. For the present, I will be quite satisfied if he now sends the Bill for circulation.

**Mr. SURENDRA MOHAN MAITRA:** If Government bring out a Bill which will satisfy me, I will withdraw my Bill.

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I quite realize the difficulty of speaking in this House after the Nawab Saheb. Moreover, I am always reluctant to question the jurisdiction of my friend, the Judicial Minister. What I want to submit is this: Government have appointed a Committee to go into this question and the Committee is holding its sittings—in fact, it had several sittings, certain information

was collected, and it came to a provisional decision on certain points. But as we have had to refer certain questions to the Government Solicitor for his opinion, the Committee has not yet completed its labour. We hope that the recommendations of the Committee will be soon available. Government in the meantime have come to a provisional decision to the effect that if they are convinced that the problem of eviction is serious, they will have to take certain steps to give immediate relief to the tenants. I hope my honourable friend, the mover of the Bill, will realise that this question bristles with complications and difficulties. It is not very easy to introduce a Bill on a matter like this without very careful consideration and without going into the matter very thoroughly. I welcome his proposal for the circulation of the Bill for eliciting opinion thereon.

The motion of Mr. Surendra Mohan Maitra that the Transfer of Property (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1939, be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st March, 1940, was then put and agreed to.

## Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill.

**Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** I beg to move for leave to introduce the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1939.

Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

**Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** I beg to move that the said Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my friend Mr Narendra Nath Das was depicting the Government as a feelingless and heartless object. I do not know what it is but we see that when any Bill is introduced by a non-official member it is irrespective of its merit sent for circulation and when it comes back is again recirculated for eliciting public opinion. Knowing fully well our position I am moving for consideration of this Bill.

I must at the outset point out that my task in advocating support for the Bill has been made easier as the Government have already formed a Committee to enquire into the conditions of the non-agricultural tenants. We do not know at what stage the Committee is, but it is enough that the Government by this time felt the urgency of the matter and issued a communiqué requesting landlords not to unnecessarily eject non-agricultural tenants. The Government did not stop there but declared that a very stringent legislative measure would be adopted if the landlords would not act up to the request. We have yet to learn the effect of the communiqué. We think that the result has been contrary to what the Government desired. I can, therefore, very definitely tell the House that unless a law is enacted very soon the mischief would go on as

before, if not with more vigour. This enactment is really long overdue and any attempt to delay will only be understood by the suffering public that the Government do not mean what they say.

The Hon'ble the Revenue Minister has tabled an amendment for circulation and obtaining opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1940. What does the Hon'ble Minister mean by moving an amendment for circulation and delaying consideration of the Bill for about a year after admitting the urgency of the matter. We could understand his seriousness if he would have so worded his amendment that the Bill might come for discussion at the earliest available opportunity, namely, during the budget session. It is a small matter and may be disposed of within a very short time. We have every right therefore to ask the Revenue Minister to clarify his position. He has just made a statement but unless he makes a further and very clear and definite statement that he is going to take steps immediately because even after the issue of the communiqué non-agricultural tenants are being served with notices of eviction with vehemence, we are not going to be satisfied and we will take it that Government are not in favour of such a measure and they have therefore adopted a marking time policy only. It cannot be said that the Government are not given ample time for this. It cannot be said as well that a non-official Bill cannot be considered as it may not be carefully drafted. We have considered and passed Government Bills, of a more complicated character very hurriedly and we have experience that the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister and the Hon'ble Labour Minister were giving almost every day notices and short notices of amendments, of amendments of amendments, so on and so forth in respect of almost every clause of the Bengal Tenancy Bill and the Money-lenders' Bill when the Bills were being considered in this House. So if there is any defect in a non-official Bill it may be remedied by such amendment. I, therefore, see no substance in moving such purposeless amendments as the one given notice of by the Hon'ble Minister.

We all know the hardships of the non-agricultural tenants. Their rights are very precarious and they are ousted from their places of abode, where they are from generation to generation, with a 15 days' notice. If they do not quit possession voluntarily the landlords will forcibly demolish their houses and in so doing take, if necessary, police help and use elephants. We have numerous instances of this forcible demolition and of recent occurrence happening in the town of Dinajpur. Every one of us will please appreciate how attached are we to our ancestral places of residence and how we love and adore them. Their sanctity is in no way inferior to that of a temple or a mosque. But these places of residence, so dear to us, that were giving us shelter and comfort a few minutes earlier would be demolished within a second and at the pleasure of the landlords after they obtain decrees and the members, including children and ladies, will at once be thrown out under the open sky.

Under threat of ejectment they will enchance the rent to an exorbitantly high rate and claim and realise more exorbitantly high *salami*. I have distributed leaflets under the caption হিন্দু non-agricultural tenants of চাঁদিনা বন্দের প্রজাদের অবস্থা amongst the members which will be of interesting reading and I have made a short statement in my Bill both of which will give you an idea in a nutshell of the atrocities perpetrated by *chandina* landlords under the power given by the existing laws. I have in my Bill therefore included clauses providing against evictions, against arbitrary enchancement of rents and abolition of *salami* in case of non-agricultural tenants who are mostly either professional men or tradesmen. I believe they ought to get some protection. I have also given some protection to occupiers of rented houses. They will not be evicted if they go on paying the house rent regularly unless the owner requires possession for his own use. You are all aware that the improvements that are made within the municipal areas are due mainly to the efforts of the municipalities and are done at public cost. The landlords seldom do anything towards them but enjoy the fruits of such improvements by way of enhanced rates of rents and *salami*. It is for this reason that provision for a small transfer fee has been made in the Bill; this will go to the municipal fund. This arrangement will certainly confer some benefit on the public that really deserves the benefit of the improvement within the municipality.

With these observations, Sir, I commend my Bill for consideration of the House.

I am prepared to accept the amendment of the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister if he will be pleased to amend his amendment and fix some date in February instead of July for the purpose of eliciting opinion on the Bill. I would entreat him in the name of the suffering non-agricultural tenants and in view of the urgency of the matter which has been admitted by Government to accede to this request for changing the date. He may also be pleased to accept the amendment that may be moved by my esteemed friend Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy, that is, fix the date sometime in February. So that if his amendment is accepted the Bill may be considered during the next budget session. Really, delay would mean denial of shelter and protection to the suffering tenants. With these observations, Sir, I commend my Bill for the consideration of the House.

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1940.

Sir, I regret to observe that there was absolutely no justification for the long speech delivered by the hon'ble mover of the Bill after my submission with regard to the motion of Babu Surendra Nath

Moitra. Government of their own accord appointed a Committee to enquire into the problem. The Committee has been doing its work and Government propose to give immediate protection to the tenants if necessary and where necessary. Government are doing it spontaneously and there is absolutely no justification for the accusation which my honourable friend has levelled against Government or for the long speech that he has inflicted on the House.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I understand that the Bill is on the same lines as the other one.

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. NISITHA NATH KUNDU:** May we know the probable date when——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Sir Bijoy, all I suggest is that in view of Mr. Moitra's Bill which has been circulated for opinion by the 31st March, 1490, would it not be convenient if this Bill also is circulated for opinion by the 31st March, 1940?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Sir, I have no objection but the 31st March practically means July.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** In effect it means that.

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I am prepared to accept your suggestion.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** In that case Mr. Hashemy's motion proposing circulation by the 1st week of February, 1940, falls through.

I will now put Sir Bijoy's amendment in the modified form: Therefore the motion now before the House is that the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1939, be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st March, 1940.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

## The Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1939.

**Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM:** I beg to move for leave to introduce the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1939.

The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

**Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM:** I also beg to move——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You cannot move your Select Committee motion as you have not obtained the consent of any of the members you propose to put on the Committee.

### The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939.

**Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI:** I beg to move for leave to introduce the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939.

The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

### The Bengal Land Alienation Bill, 1939.

**Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI:** I beg to move for leave to introduce the Bengal Land Alienation Bill, 1939.

The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

### Resolutions on the Ordinances.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Sir, may I draw the attention of the Chair to the fact that the resolutions tabled by members of the Congress Party have not been circulated? The resolutions were circulated yesterday only——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I think I should explain the whole position. Under the constitution the House has a right to disapprove of Ordinances and therefore the decision of the House will only be disapproval. The reason why you want to disapprove is wholly immaterial. For example, take the Jute Ordinance. You might disapprove of it on the ground that the minimum price of jute fixed therein is too small. Another member may disapprove of it on the ground that the minimum price is too high, and yet both of you agree to disapprove. So far as the constitutional effect is concerned it goes out. That is why if I have to give the House the right to exercise its constitutional prerogative I have to do it in the constitutional way, namely, by means of disapproval. Otherwise it becomes restricted to an issue which is not exercisable within the limits of the constitution. I would like to know what Mr. Gupta says to this.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Sir, my submission is this: We do not disapprove of the Jute Ordinance or the Hessian Futures Ordinance as a whole. But we do disapprove of the manner of the promulgation and the method——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I hope you will be careful of what you are going to say. You have already stated that you do not disapprove of the Ordinances as a whole. I do not know if you have any other right than to disapprove of the Ordinance as a whole.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** We can certainly discuss the Ordinances laid on the table and bring to the notice of the House the defects in those Ordinances, the improper use that has been made of the Ordinances, etc.——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You cannot exercise in this connection your right and refer to the impropriety of the execution of the Ordinances. I hope you will remember that you are exercising your constitutional right only. Reference to improper use, etc , can only come in on a substantive motion

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** We have the constitutional right of tabling a Resolution when an Ordinance is laid on the table.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Not tabling a Resolution but tabling a Resolution for disapproving the Ordinance.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** We may disapprove a particular Ordinance on certain specific grounds.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I agree there, but if you disapprove on the ground of omission of a certain thing in the Ordinance you cannot do that. I am afraid what Government have not done can be taken as a point for disapproving what they have done. You can say that an Ordinance is defective by referring to the provisions made thereunder, but you cannot refer to what is not contained in it.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** In disapproving an Ordinance can't we state our grounds at all?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** It is entirely for you to do so You may or you may not.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Why not, I cannot understand.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You can, and that "can" is only for the purpose of what is in the Statute itself.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** The Statute does not say that we are not entitled to offer our grounds for disapproval.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** What this Assembly wants to do is to disapprove an unsatisfactory procedure. We will take Ordinance No. 1—"This Assembly disapproves of the Bengal Ordinance No. 1 of 1939, namely, the Bengal Raw Jute Futures Market". As regards the low amount of minimum price fixed by the Ordinance we can discuss that. The second part is the omission to provide for any minimum price to be paid to the grower of jute and the improper use made of it.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That you cannot do. The low amount of minimum price fixed—that is quite in order. At the same time, will you see Rule 88 of our Rules, namely, that it shall not contain arguments. I am doubtful as to how these things will be taken up in future, but for the present it is proper that we should know how these things should be done. I am quite prepared to admit the first part of it, but the second part I cannot admit.

**The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER:** That is not the subject matter of the Ordinance at all.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Yes, you cannot say that Government failed to pass an Ordinance omitting certain things.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** What we say is that the Bengal Raw Jute Futures Ordinance has been promulgated with the object of getting a certain minimum price——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Gupta, I hope you agree with me in your heart to what I have said.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** If it was a thoroughly independent and separate matter I submit your ruling would be quite all right, but here when I say——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I also know that I can argue on both sides as I have been a lawyer.

**Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** You can do that even now.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That I cannot do here.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** If I put that thing as an independent proposition that may be disallowed, but when I say that without that provision the purpose of the Ordinance will be defeated then it comes within the scope of the Ordinance and the improper use made of it we can certainly discuss here. What I say is that the Jute

Ordinance was not brought in at an opportune moment, but it has been promulgated at a time when it was not necessary. I am not going to refer to any personalities in the matter nor about any person making an improper use of it.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I hope, Mr. Gupta, you will realise that this right of promulgating an Ordinance by the Executive Government is in effect an encroachment on the right of the legislature and you will set up a precedent of constitutional impropriety if I am to hold that by a Resolution you disapprove the action of an executive government not for making an Ordinance but for omitting what they have not done. In other words, you want to extend the scope and the power of the executive government to pass a thing which is more than what they have done. Your point is that it is not merely to discuss the Ordinance, but also its relative effect on other factors. You can certainly develop that as an argument but when you are giving notice of a Resolution on the basis of a Bill you can never discuss by an amendment or table an amendment for the purpose of discussing anything not within the purview of the Resolution or the Bill. You have to specifically point out whether you want an addition or subtraction. For that reason I am for the time-being of opinion that so far as the Ordinance is concerned, although I am not certain and I am giving the benefit of doubt in your favour, I think you can discuss the first item, namely, the low amount of price of raw jute, but the other part, I am afraid, does not arise.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** I think your ruling is that whatever amounts to a direct effect of the Ordinance and if it is established as a direct effect of the Ordinance, it can be discussed.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Yes. So far as Resolution No. 2 is concerned as in Ordinance No. 1, the first part is all right, but the second part is a matter of argument. So far as the Resolution on Ordinance No. 3 is concerned, disapproving the Ordinance in view of its ineffective and dilatory character, I think it is in order.

**Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI:** Sir, with reference to the ruling just given, may I enquire whether it is for the time being or is it your final decision?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have said "for the time being". I can find no precedent in respect this matter anywhere in India and it is a new thing. But my impression is that it is not in order: on the other hand, I cannot forget the fact that there is a very strong point of view and it may be that the House wants a decision on a narrow and restricted issue and not on a general issue. In order to allow that I have allowed this until I can find that what I thought was right or the other side was wrong.

**Mr. B. MUKHERJEE:** Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly disapproves the Bengal Raw Jute Futures Ordinance, 1939 (Bengal Ordinance No. 1 of 1939) as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under section 88 (*1*) of the Government of India Act, 1935, as regards the low amount of minimum price of raw jute futures.

Mr. Speaker, অর্ডিন্যান্স মাত্রই আপত্তিজনক, বিশেষত বাজার সম্বন্ধে। জিনিষের চাহিদা এবং জোগানের উপর তার দাম নির্ভর করে এ অবস্থায় Ordinance এর দ্বারা দাম নিয়ন্ত্রণের প্রয়োজন কেবল সেই সময়েই হোতে পারে যখন তাহা অসহায় উৎপন্নকারীদের জীবন রক্ষা করবার জন্য প্রযুক্ত হয়। নইলে পর এইরূপ Ordinance এর প্রয়োগ সম্বন্ধে লোকের মনে নানাপ্রকার সন্দেহ আসতে পারে। এবং এইরূপ Ordinance প্রয়োগ অপেক্ষা অপপ্রয়োগের সম্ভাবনাই বেশী।

শুধু যারা দুর্ব্বল এবং অশক্ত কেবল তাদের রক্ষা করবার জন্যই Ordinanceএর প্রয়োজন হতে পারে। পাটের দাম ঠিক করার ব্যাপারে বাংলার পাট চাষীদের যে শক্তিহীনতা ও দৌর্ব্বল্য আছে তারই জন্য আমি চিরকাল তীব্র আকাঙ্খা পোষণ করে এসেছি যে এমন কোন Ordinance হওয়া উচিৎ যাতে করে বাংলার পাট চাষীরা তাদের উৎপন্নের জন্য Cost of production এর চেয়ে বেশী মূল্য পেতে পারে। এ সম্বন্ধে Assembly র প্রত্যেক member নির্ব্বাচনের সময় বাংলার কোটী কোটী কৃষককে সান্ত্বনা ও আশ্বাস দিয়ে এসেছেন যে তাঁরা পাটের একটা সর্ব্বনিম্ন মূল্য নির্দ্ধারণ করে দেবেন। কিন্তু গত তিন বৎসরের মধ্যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট এ সম্বন্ধে কিছু করার প্রয়োজনীয়তা অনুভব করেন নাই। এবং যখন গভর্ণমেণ্ট এই Ordinance প্রয়োগ করেন তখন এই প্রয়োগ অপপ্রয়োগের নামান্তর হয়ে দাঁড়াল। প্রথমে অপ্রয়োগ, পরে অপপ্রয়োগ। প্রথমে অপ্রয়োগ এই হিসাবে, তাঁরা Ordinance নিয়ে এলেন ভাদ্র মাসে। অনুগ্রহ কোরে যদি তাঁরা এই Ordinance দু তিন মাস পূর্ব্বে আনতেন তাহোলে দুর্ভাগা বাংলার কৃষকেরা পাটের কিছু মূল্য পেতে পার্ত। আষাঢ় মাস হ'তে প্রায় পনের আনা পাট যখন বেরিয়ে গেল কৃষকের হাত থেকে তখন এই Ordinance এল। যারা অপেক্ষাকৃত ধনী কৃষক তাদের হাতে হয়তো কিছু কিছু পাট ছিল এবং তারাই কিছু লাভ কোর্ত্তে পেরেছিল। গরীব কৃষক অতি সামান্যই লাভ কর্ত্তে পেরেছিল তাই মহামান্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের অনুগ্রহে নয়, সারা পৃথিবী-ব্যাপী যে যুদ্ধ চলেছে তারই কল্যাণে

**Mr. SPEAKER:** May I interrupt you just for a minute, Mr. Mukherjee?

Mr Gupta, I would like to know whether it will not be better if all these three Ordinances are discussed together and disposed of or do you want to discuss them separately?

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** No, Sir, because the grounds are separate so the speeches should be separate.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** In any case we cannot discuss all the three today and I doubt if we can finish the first at least. Some members are anxious to know as they have got some engagements when the debate will be finished. In any case I propose to close the sitting at 7-45 p.m. to-night.

**Mr. B. MUKHERJEE :** দ্বিতীয়তঃ যে সময়ে Ordinance পাশ করা, হয় তখন যা বাজার দর ছিল, তার চেয়ে উচ্চে মূল্য নির্দ্ধারণ করা হয় নাই। তার কিছুকাল পূর্ব্বে বাংলার চটকলওয়ালারা তাদের ঘন্টা কমিয়ে দিয়েছিল। তারা বলেছিল এখন চটের চাহিদা কম হয়েছে। এবৎসর বন্যার দরুণ পাটচাষ আপনা আপনি নিয়ন্ত্রিত হওয়ায় পাটের মূল্য বাড়িবার সম্ভাবনা ছিল, কিন্তু চটকলের মালিকেরা যখন দেখলে অসুবিধা;—তারা কৃত্রিম উপায়ে পাটের চাহিদা কমিয়ে এসম্বন্ধে লাভবান হবার চেষ্টা কোরেছিল। চটকলের মালিকেরা বিগত পঁচিশ বৎসরে যখনই কোন নূতন নিয়ম অনুসরণ করেছেন তা এই জুলাই মাসে, অর্থাৎ ঠিক যে সময়ে এটা করলে পাটের বাজারের প্রতি তাদের যা মনোভাব তা প্রতিফলিত হইতে পারে—এই উদ্দেশ্য নিয়েই জুলাই মাসে hours restriction করেছেন। ১৯২৮, ১৯২৯, ১৯৩১, ১৯৩৩ সালে যখন Single shift, Double shift বা hours restriction করা হয় তা জুলাই মাসে কিম্বা আগষ্ট মাসে করা হয়েছে। এবৎসর যে মূল্য পাট কম হওয়ার জন্য হতে পারত সেটা কৃত্রিম উপায়ে পাটকলের মালিকেরা কমাবার চেষ্টা কোরেছেন।

এই Ordinance এর ব্যবস্থা দু তিন বৎসর পূর্ব্বে কোরলে বাংলার কৃষকেরা রক্ষা পেত, এই Ordinance হওয়ার পরে যুদ্ধ এল তার জন্য আজ অত্যন্ত বেশী রকম পাটের মূল্য বেড়ে গেছে। এই কারণে Ordinance অপ্রয়োগেই পর্য্যবসিত হয়েছে। Ordinanceএর অস্তিত্বই আজ উপলব্ধি হচ্ছে না।

দ্বিতীয়তঃ এই Ordinance দ্বারা ফটকা বাজারে গভর্ণমেণ্ট সর্ব্বনিম্ন দর বাঁধিয়া দেন ৩৮৲ টাকা। তাতে দাঁড়ায় কলিকাতা বাজারে পাটের দর প্রতি মণ ৭৮৲। গ্রামের বাজারে রেলভাড়া, দালালের লাভ, গোড়া বাটা ইত্যাদি বাবদে ২৷৷৹ বাদ দিয়া ৪৷৵ আনার বেশী পাটের দর হয় না এই Ordinance এর দরুণ। অথচ এটা সর্ব্ববাদীসম্মত যে পাট তৈয়ারী করবার যা খরচ তা অন্ততঃ পক্ষে মণপ্রতি ৫৲। সেই দিক থেকে দেখা যাচ্ছে স্বাভাবিকভাবে যা সর্ব্বনিম্ন মূল্য হওয়া উচিত ছিল, Ordinanceএর দরুণ তাও হয় নাই।

এরদ্বারা দরিদ্র কৃষকের উপর চুরি করা হোয়েছে। তারা তাদের তৈয়ারী দ্রব্যের প্রকৃত মূল্য পায় নাই। এর থেকে তাদেরকে বঞ্চিত করা হোয়েছে। যদি Ordinance দ্বারা ফটকা বাজারে সর্ব্বনিম্ন দর ৫০৲ বা ৬০৲ টাকা ধার্য্য হইত তা হোলে শেষ পর্য্যন্ত বাংলার কৃষক মণপ্রতি ৭।৮৲ টাকা পেতে পারত। ফটকা বাজারের সর্ব্বনিম্ন দর ৬০৲ টাকা করা হোলে বাংলার চাষী কোনপ্রকারে উৎপাদন মূল্য ও তাহার উপর মণকরা ২৲, ৩৲ টাকা লাভ কোরতে পারত। এই হেতু এই Ordinanceএ আমার মনে হয় বাংলার কৃষকগণ কোনই স্বার্থকতা দেখতে পায় না।

যারা বণিক বা কলকারখানার মালিক তাদের রক্ষার জন্য Ordinance এর প্রয়োজনিয়তা আমি অনুভব করি না। ফটকা বাজার নিয়ন্ত্রণ করে ধনী ও বণিকদের প্রয়োজনিয়তার উপর। তারা Ordinanceএর সুযোগ গ্রহণ কোরে কৃষকদের বঞ্চিত কোরেছেন।

তার চেয়ে যদি এই Ordinance দ্বারা মফঃস্বল বাজারে পাটের সর্ব্বনিম্ন দর বাঁধিয়া দেওয়া হইত তা হোলে বাংলার কৃষকদের কৃতজ্ঞ হবার যথেষ্ট কিছু থাকত গভর্ণমেণ্টের প্রতি। তারা বরাবর সেটা কামনা কোরেছে। বাস্তবিক যুদ্ধ চলবার দরুণ যে চাহিদা বেড়েছে তাতে এখন পাটের বাজার দর দাঁড়ায়েছে কমবেশী ৯০৲। Ordinanceএর স্বার্থকতা হোতে পারে যদি অন্ততঃ এইরকম করা হয়—যুদ্ধের সময় ফটকা বাজারের সর্ব্বনিম্ন দর থাকবে ১০০৲ টাকা বা ১২০৲ টাকার উপরে। আর সাধারণ সময়ে থাকবে ৫০৲ টাকা বা ৬০৲ টাকার উপরে। তা হোলে বাংলার কৃষকেরা কথঞ্চিৎ লাভবান হোতে পারে। এই ত্রিনিস্টা যদি করা হয় তা হোলে, পূর্ব্বেই বলেছি পাটের বাজার জোর করে

নিয়ন্ত্রণ করা সুবিচার হোতে পারে। তা না হোলে সমস্ত বাজার নয়, কেবল একটা বাজার Ordinance দ্বারা নিয়ন্ত্রিত করা—এর চেয়ে অর্থনীতির বিরোধী আর কিছুই হোতে পারে না।

একটা জিনিষের দর নিয়ন্ত্রণ করবার অনুকূলে যুক্তি তখনই থাকতে পারে যখন দেখা যায় বাজারে যারা বিক্রি কর্চ্ছে তারা দুর্ব্বল এবং অসক্ত। তারা নিজেদের সমবেত শক্তির দ্বারা উপযুক্ত মূল্য গ্রহণে অনুপযুক্ত। তাছাড়া অন্য কোন কারণেই নহে।

আজকে যতক্ষণ অর্থনৈতিক ক্ষেত্রে free trade চল্‌ছে ততক্ষণ একটা বিশেষ পণ্যের উপর Ordinance কোন যুক্তির দ্বারা সমর্থন করা যেতে পারে না। এর দ্বারা Ordinanceএর অপপ্রয়োগ হওয়ার সম্ভবনা আছে। এ সম্বন্ধে সমস্ত কলিকাতায় এর যে অপপ্রয়োগের কাহিণী পরিব্যাপ্ত আছে তা বোধ হয় কারও অজানা নাই, এই Ordinance কখন আস্‌বে, এরদ্বারা দর কত'তে fix হবে তার উপর ফট্‌কা বাজারে ও শেয়ার বাজারে যে ভাবে কেনা বেচা হয়েছে যদি সে সম্বন্ধে সমস্ত তথ্য আহরণ করা যায় তাহলে পর বহু অমূল্য তথ্য বেরিয়ে যাবে এই Ordinance পাশ করবার পশ্চাতে প্রকৃত মনোভাব কি ছিল। কাদের স্বার্থ নিহীত আছে এতে কারা এই Ordinanceএর দ্বারা লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা লাভবান হোয়েছে—এই সমস্ত মূল্যবান তথ্য জানতে পারা যায় এ সম্বন্ধে একটু অনুসন্ধান কোরলে। Ordinance পাশ করবার কিছু আগের থেকে কবে এই Ordinance পাশ হবে না হবে, যাঁদের পক্ষে জানা অতি সহজ ও স্বাভাবিক তেমন কোন কোন একাধারে রাজনৈতিক নেতা এবং ব্যবসায়ীর মারফতে বাজারে কত কেনা বেচা হোয়েছে, কারা কেনা বেচা কর্‌ছেন অনুসন্ধান করলে এ সম্বন্ধেও অমূল্য তত্ত্ব লাভ করা যাবে।

সমস্ত বাংলার কৃষকেরা বহুকাল চীৎকার করে এসেছে যে পাটের সর্ব্ব নিম্ন মূল্য ১০ টাকা করা হউক কিন্তু কোনদিন তা করা হোল না। আজকে ঠিক যে সময়ে ১০, টাকার কাছাকাছি পাটের মূল্য হোয়েছে সেই সময়ে ৭, টাকা মূল্য বেঁধে দেওয়ার কি স্বার্থকতা থাকতে পারে। এরদ্বারা Ordinanceএর অপপ্রয়োগ যতটা হোতে পারে হোয়েছে। এই রূপে ফট্‌কা বাজার নিয়ন্ত্রিত না করে যদি পল্লীর বাজারে (সেখানকার দালালদের হাত থেকে কৃষকদের রক্ষা করবার জন্য) loose পাটের দাম নিয়ন্ত্রিত করা হোত তাহোলে বাংলার কৃষকেরা কথঞ্চিত লাভবান হোতে পারত।

বন্যায় দুর্ভিক্ষে বাংলার কৃষকেরা যে ভাবে উৎপীড়িত তাদের পক্ষে ভগবানের আশীর্ব্বাদ রূপে আস্‌তে পারত এই Ordinance যদি দুই তিন মাস, আগে এর দ্বারা loose পাটের দর নিয়ন্ত্রিত করা হোত। বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টের যদি সে উদ্দেশ্য থাকে তাহোলে Ordinanceর মধ্যে যে সমস্ত omissions আছে ও আজিকার আলোচনার ভিতর থেকে যে সমস্ত omissions দেখা যাচ্ছে সে গুলি সম্বন্ধে অবহিত হোয়ে ত্রুটিগুলি—অবশ্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে ত্রুটি স্বীকার করা prestige এর পক্ষে হানিজনক, কিন্তু কেহই অভ্রান্ত নহে—সংশোধন কোরে এবং prestige সম্বন্ধে নিজেদের অযথা মর্য্যাদাজ্ঞান বর্জ্জন কোরে নূতনভাবে এমন Ordinance করেন যে Ordinanceএ বাংলার কৃষকেরা অন্ততঃ পক্ষে তাদের উৎপন্ন মূল্য ৫, টাকার উপর কিছু লাভ পেতে পারে (অবশ্য যুদ্ধের বাজারে সমস্ত জিনিষের দর বেড়ে যাচ্ছে সেই হিসাবে এই মূল্য তরল হওয়া উচিত) তাহোলে এই Ordinance কে সকলেই সর্ব্বান্তকরণে সমর্থণ কোরতে পারে।

আমি Ordinanceকে Ordinance হিসাবে অনুমোদন করিনা। আমি এটাকে principle হিসাবেও সমর্থণ করিনা। কিন্তু দরিদ্র অসক্ত বাংলার পাটচাষীর রক্ষাকল্পে আইন এর দ্বারা পাটের সর্ব্বনিম্ন মূল্য বেঁধে দেওয়া সম্বন্ধে আমি বরাবর তীব্র আকাঙ্খা পোষন কোরে এসেছি সেই হিসাবে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে তাঁদের নীতি পরিবর্ত্তন কোরে jute

Ordinance নিয়ে এসেচেন তাতে আমি আনন্দিত কিন্তু যে ক্ষেত্রে না আনা উচিত (অর্থাৎ কলকাতার বাজারে) সেই ক্ষেত্রে এনেচেন এবং যে ক্ষেত্রে আনা উচিত—মফস্বলের বাজারে—সেখানে আনেন নি।

যাই হোক Ordinanceএ যে সমস্ত ত্রুটিও অসম্পূর্ণতা আছে সেগুলি আমি অনুমোদন না করলেও আমার Ordinance as suchএ আপত্তি নাই। আশা করি গভর্ণমেণ্ট এই ত্রুটি গুলি সংশোধন কোরে ভবিষ্যতে এমন Ordinance নিয়ে আসবেন যাতে কোরে বাংলার কৃষকেরা লাভবান হোতে পারে।

**Maulvi ABDUL WAHED:** সভাপতি মহোদয়! আমার বন্ধু বঙ্কিমবাবু যে অর্ডিন্যান্সের সম্বন্ধে সংশোধন প্রস্তাব এনেছেন আমি তাই সমর্থণ কোরতে দাঁড়িয়েছি। আমি বাংলার পল্লীগ্রামের একজন পাট উৎপাদনকারী চাষী। পাট উৎপাদন কোরতে কতটা কষ্ট কোরতে হয়। কতটা খরচ পড়ে তাও নিজে চুকুভোগী হিসাবে যথেষ্ট জানি। পাটের অর্ডিন্যান্স যখন জারি করা হয় তখন বাংলার চাষীদের মধ্যে অনেকের ঘরেই পাট ছিলো না। এই যুদ্ধের বাজারে আজ যখন পাটের দাম দিনের পর দিন বেড়ে চোলছে, তার যথার্থতা কৃষক, যারা পাট-উৎপাদন করে, তাদের মধ্যে শত করা ৯০ জনই পায় নাই, মাত্র পাঁচজনে পেয়েছে। এবং পেয়েছে তারাই যারা ফড়িয়া, দালাল, ধনিক, আর যারা চট কলের মালিক। আমাদের পাড়াগাঁয়ে একটা প্রবাদ কথা আছে, যে-

"চাষী মজুর খেটে মরে,
ফকির বৈষ্ণবের থোলে ভরে।
সাধুজনে উপোস করে,
মরা লোটে চোর আর বাটপাড়ে।"

তাই বোলছি, চাষী মাথার ঘাম পায়ে ফেলে রৌদ্র বৃষ্টির ভিতর মাঠে মাঠে সকাল থেকে সন্ধ্যা পর্যন্ত খেটে দূষিত জলে সমস্ত শরীরটাকে পচিয়ে, এই পাট উৎপাদন করে। এই পাটই তাদের টাকা পাবার একমাত্র জিনিষ। এবং এই পাট উৎপন্ন কোরে বাংলাদেশের বহু লোকের খোরাক জুগিয়ে আজকে বাংলার চাষী ভিটে মাটি শূন্য হোতে বোসেছে। তাদের ঘরে খোরাক নাই, পেটে ভাত নাই পরিধানে কাপড় নাই, ছেলে পিলেরা রোগের যাতনায় ছট্ ফট্ কোরছে, বাংলাদেশের দুর্ব্বল হোতে দুর্ব্বলতম এই যে চাষী সমাজ তাকে রক্ষা করবার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট কোন প্রকার চেষ্টা করেন না। গভর্ণমেণ্টের উদ্দেশ্য হোচ্ছে—আমি আর একদিনও বোলেছি,- দেশের গভর্ণমেণ্ট থাকবে প্রবলের অত্যাচার হোতে দুর্ব্বলকে রক্ষা করার জন্য। আর আজকে দেখছি আমাদের গভর্ণমেণ্ট দুর্ব্বলের উপর প্রবলের অত্যাচার যাতে বেশী হোতে পারে তারই সহায়তা কোরছেন (Hear, hear from the Congress Party.) আমাদের দুর্ব্বল অশিক্ষিত চাষী যারা তারা অক্লান্ত পরিশ্রম কোরে যে পাট উৎপাদন কোরছে, এবং সেই পাটকে অল্প মূল্যে খরিদ কোরে বিদেশে নিয়ে যারা নাকি অধিক লাভবান হোচ্ছে, সেইসব ধনিক বণিক শিক্ষিত সম্প্রদায়কে এই গভর্ণমেণ্ট সাহায্য কোরছেন। আমার কেবল দুঃখ হয় যে——

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY:** On a point of order, Sir. Are we having a discourse on jute or on the Jute Ordinance?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am afraid we are discussing both jute and the Jute Ordinance.

**Maulvi ABDUL WAHED:** সভাপতি সাহেব, বাংলার চাষীরা যে লোহা দ্বারা কোদাল তৈরী কোরে এবং যে লোহার দ্বারা লাঙ্গলের ফাল তৈরী কোরে মাটি চাষ কোরে কৃষিজাত দ্রব্য উৎপাদন করে, কঠোর পরিশ্রম করে পাট উৎপাদন করে, সেই কৃষকের রোজগারের সঙ্গে সেই লোহার তৈরী নিপ কলম ব্যবহার কোরে যারা রোজগার করেন, তাদের তুলনা কোরলে অবাক হোতে হয়। সারা বৎসর খেটে চাষী যা পায়, কলম ব্যবসায়ীরা সে তুলনায় অনেক বেশী লাভ করে থাকেন।

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am afraid your speech is now going out of order. It was not so before. Probably encouraged by the decision which I have given, you are going beyond your limit.

**Maulvi ABDUL WAHED :** আমি এখন পাট সম্বন্ধেই বোলছি। একমাত্র পাটই হোচ্ছে আমাদের কৃষকদের বিদেশ হতে টাকা পাওয়ার একমাত্র উপায়-স্বরূপ। এই একটী-মাত্র জিনিষ সারা ভারতবর্ষের মধ্যে বিশেষ কোরে বাংলাদেশেই উৎপন্ন হয়, এবং সারা দুনিয়ার ভিতর সমস্ত জাতিরই এই জিনিষের আবশ্যক হয়। এমন কি যুদ্ধের সময় যাদের নাকি ধন, দৌলত আছে, তাদের ধন, মান, প্রাণ বাঁচাবার অস্ত্র-স্বরূপ ব্যবহার হয় যে পাট সেই পাট এই বাংলাদেশের চাষীর হাতেই একমাত্র জন্মে থাকে। তা ছাড়া বেহার এবং আসামেও অতি সামান্য পরিমাণে পাট হয়। আমাদের বাংলার মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীকে যখন বাংলাদেশের কোটী কোটী কৃষকের পক্ষ থেকে এই পরিষদে আমরা কৃষক প্রজাদল পাটের সর্ব্ব নিম্ন দাম অন্ততঃ প্রতি মণ ১০৲ টাকা বেঁধে দেবার জন্য দাবি উত্থাপন কোরেছিলাম তখন বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের মন্ত্রী-মণ্ডলী ও তাঁহাদের অন্ধ পূজকেরা বেহার এবং আসামের দোহাই উঠিয়ে বোলেছিলেন এটা করা অসম্ভব। যেন না আসাম এবং বেহারেও পাট হয়, সমস্ত খরিদ্দাররা আসাম ও বেহারে চোলে যাবে। ফলে বাংলার পাট অবিক্রি হয়ে যাবে। আর আজকে যখন তাদের ইচ্ছা মতন দাম বাঁধা হলো তখন বেহার আর আসামের দিকে লক্ষ্য করা হলো না কেন?

সভাপতি সাহেব, আমি ময়মনসিংহের চাষী। আমার আওয়াজ কঠোর হচ্ছে তার কারণ আমি ভুক্তভোগী। ভয়ানক জ্বালা বুকের ভিতর নিয়ে এখানে এসেছি। কোটী কোটী লাঙ্গলধারী চাষীর বুকের যাতনা নিয়ে এসেছি,—সে যাতনা গুলি-বারুদের মত বুক ফেটে বের হোতে চায়, তাই আমার আওয়াজ এত কঠোর হোচ্ছে, ক্ষমা কোরবেন। হতভাগ্য চাষীদের কপাল পোড়া। তাই পাটের জন্য যত কিছু পরিশ্রম তাদেরই কোরতে হবে কিন্তু লাভের বেলায় দেখা যায় তাদের ভাগে শূন্য। যখনই পাটের দর বাড়বার সম্ভাবনা হোয়ে উঠলো জ্ঞানীগণ যখন বুঝতে পারলেন,—বিশেষ কোরে পাটের কারবার কোরে যারা কোটী কোটী টাকা লাভবান হোয়ে থাকে, তারা যখন দেখলেন যে যুদ্ধ সমাসীন, এবং যুদ্ধ আসন্ন হলেই পাটের দর বেড়ে পঞ্চমে উঠে যাবে, তখনই চালাকি কোরে পাটের এই দর যাতে বাংলার চাষীরা না পেতে পারে—সেইজন্য ৭৲ সাত টাকা দর বেঁধে দেওয়া হোয়েছে। এই যে দুর্ব্বলের উপর যে অন্যায় অবিচার হোচ্ছে, সেজন্য, আমি বিশ্বাস করি, মূক, বধির ও অন্ধ স্বরূপ বাংলার নিরক্ষর চাষীদের ফাঁকি দেওয়ায় দুনিয়ার সর্ব্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বিচারক খোদাতালার কাছে জবাব-দিহি কোরতেই হবে। আজকে চাষীদের হাত থেকে পাট চোলে গেছে আর দরও ক্রমশঃ উপরের দিকে যাচ্ছে। প্রতি বৎসরই এরকম দেখা যায়, কৃষকের হাতে যখন পাট না থাকে তখনই দর চড়ে। আর কৃষকের উপরের পাওনাদার যারা তাই দেখে সবাই চাষীদিগকে বোলে থাকেন যে পাটের দর এতো হলো তথাপি টাকা দিচ্ছ না কেন? কিন্তু প্রকৃতপক্ষে চাষীরা সে দরটা পেলো কি না সে কথা কেউ বিবেচনা কোরে দেখেন না। আমি আজকে পাট-চাষীদের পক্ষ থেকে বোলতে চাই—তারা আজ কোটী কোটী কণ্ঠ থেকে দাবি কোরছে যে—পাটের সর্ব্ব নিম্ন দর অন্ততঃ পক্ষে প্রতি মণ দশ টাকা বেঁধে দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা এই অর্ডিনেন্সে করা হউক।

এই পরিষদের ভিতর পল্লীগ্রাম থেকে যে সমস্ত লোক [illegible] ভোটে এসেছেন তাঁরা মুক্তকণ্ঠে ঘোষণা কোরে এসেছেন যে পাটের সর্ব্বনিম্ন দর আমাদের বেঁধে দিতেই হবে। আজ এই অর্ডিনান্সের সম্বন্ধে বিবৃতিতা করিবার মতন কিছুই নাই। আমরা শুধু এই বোলতে চাই যে পাটের নিম্নতম মূল্য এমন একটা বেঁধে দেওয়া হোক যাতে মণ প্রতি দর অন্ততঃ দশ টাকার নীচে না হয়। অর্থাৎ পল্লীগ্রামের বাজারে বা কৃষকের ঘরে পাটের দর দশ টাকার নীচে না যায় তার উপরে যত হোক হোতে পারে—এই অধিকার কৃষকের জন্য রেখে এই অর্ডিনান্স সংশোধন কোরে দিলে,—আমাদের কোন আপত্তি নাই। বাংলার চাষীরাও তাতে আনন্দিত হবে বোলে আমি বিশ্বাস করি। আজ গভর্ণমেন্ট তথা মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী যদি এই কার্য্য করেন তাহলে আমার বিশ্বাস তাঁরা দেশের লোকের কাছে আবার মুখ দেখাতে পারবেন নৈলে তাঁদের মুখ কালো হয়ে যাবে।

## Date of Discussion of War Resolution.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I think we will not be able to finish this to-night. I may just announce that Government have proposed to give notice of a resolution on War which will be sent out to the honourable members by to-morrow. It is suggested that the resolution might be taken up on Thursday next. So, if the members receive the notice by to-morrow, I think they will be able to give notice of their amendments by Tuesday. I will of course be quite prepared to receive amendments till Wednesday.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Are you waiving the time-limit?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Yes.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** I hope you will extend the same privilege to the non-officials also.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** What I am suggesting is that so far as war resolution is concerned, subject to their receipt of the notice on Saturday or Sunday,—and they will certainly receive it by Sunday—if the honourable members can give notice of their amendments by Tuesday, it would be all right; otherwise I will be quite prepared to take notice of amendments in my office till mid-day of Wednesday.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** In view of the fact that one non-official War resolution is already in the agenda, may I submit that Government might move amendments to that resolution?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have no control over Government.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Unless you give us right to move short-notice amendments—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I do not think I should nullify the decision of Government.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Regarding resolutions, you have got rules about the number of days notice required.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** What I might say is that so far as this resolution is concerned, I should not force the decision of Government.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** I submit that the rules have been framed with a view to give sufficient time to the members to put in amendments.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** It is possible, I might say, that the War resolution to be moved by Government may come up on Thursday the 14th.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Either Government or non-official, everything will come up on that day?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Non-official resolutions are coming up on Friday.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY:** We request that 14th may be fixed by you for discussing the War resolution

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I want to know the attitude of the House in this matter.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** If Government want to bring a resolution of their own they will have to bring it on a Government business day. If they want to encroach upon a non-official resolutions day then this side of the House has got grave objection to it. This session we have got only one non-official resolutions day.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I take it that in case the Government war resolution is not finished on Thursday the Opposition will not agree to its being continued on Friday?

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Yes, Sir, that is our idea, since we have got only one day for non-official resolutions this session as I have already said.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY:** May I beg to point out that the very first non-official resolution happens to be a War resolution?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** But in that case the difficulty will be that even if the Opposition agree to the official War resolution being taken up on Friday it will probably take up the whole time of the House discussing that resolution so that no non-official resolution can be discussed this session.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** I suggest, Sir, that on Friday Government may move their resolution as an amendment to the non-official War resolution.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I do not know what Government want to do. They may either fix Thursday for their own resolution or when the non-official resolution is moved on Friday they may move an amendment to it.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** I beg to submit that the latter will be a more suitable course

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Do you agree to take the resolution on Friday?

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** If non-official resolutions are given precedence on that day then we can agree, and Government may consider this point

**Mr. SPEAKER:** It is entirely open to Government to vote for any amendment or resolutions it does not matter I take it that the Opposition is quite prepared to have both Thursday and Friday for the War resolution provided Government move their own resolution on Thursday and the decision will be taken by separate votes

**Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED:** I beg to submit, Sir that the first non-official resolution is not a War resolution - -

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ:** I may say, Sir that so far as Maulvi Abdul Wahab Khan's resolution is concerned, it is not a War resolution. It is something which on the contrary comes after the War As a matter of fact, it cannot be said to be a War resolution at all. So, if there is to be any War resolution it will have to be something distinct from that resolution

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The difficulty is that the Opposition is absolutely adamant on this point. They do not want the Government War Resolution to be taken up on a non-official resolution day as there have been only three non-official days fixed.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Yes, Sir, we have been allotted two days for Bills, and only one has been allotted for resolutions.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** In view of that how can we agree to one day being used for official purposes?

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Sir, may I draw your attention to rule 85 of the Procedure Rules of this House where it is stated that "a member who wishes to move a resolution shall give 21 days' notice of his intention, and, shall, together with the notice, submit a copy of the resolution which he wishes to move:

Provided that the Speaker with the consent of the Minister in-charge of the Department to which the resolution relates may allow a resolution to be entered on the List of Busines at shorter notice than 21 days".

Rising on a point of order, I would like to know definitely—because at the time of the discussion of the rules, you, Sir, were pleased to observe that it would be only on very rare occasions and in respect of very urgent matters, that you would be prepared to use your discretionary power in this regard, and not ordinarily—whether you will be prepared on the present occasion to waive the above rule and exercise your special privilege?

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** For there is no provision for admitting a resolution on less than 21 days' notice. Let us understand, Sir, under what provision this resolution can be admitted unless you exercise your special privilege and suspend the ordinary rule.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have noted your point but the War resolution is also a matter of general public interest.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Our resolutions to be taken up on non-official days also relate to matters of general public interest.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That is true. Government should therefore make its own decision as to when they are going to move their resolution.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Reverting to rule 85, Sir I may say that it was pointed out by the Assembly Secretary that it would be administratively impossible for him to accept a resolution on shorter notice.

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** But it is in the nature of a special resolution.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** In such a case you can very well understand the unenviable position in which the Speaker finds himself. I am quite prepared to be accommodating to all sections of the House, but my position becomes most unenviable if, with reference to every Bill, every resolution or every matter, I have got to accept it at short notice. In that case members have naturally a right to object. ("Hear, hear" from the Opposition Benches.) I myself feel considerable embarrassment; yet I exercise my judgment after considering all the circumstances. We are working with a staff which is none too sufficient and having regard to its number they have got to work over-time and I was told that the menial staff had been kept on working the whole night for some days because some of the Departments were working all the night. So I hope Government will consider the unenviable position in which I am in. Nevertheless I will certainly consider the convenience of all sections of the House and what should be done in this matter the House can leave to me. But it seems that so far as the appropriation of a private day for official purpose is concerned the Opposition do not want to yield on this point.

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** On what point, Sir?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** On this point that you cannot have both Thursday and Friday together for your War resolution.

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Why can't we get Friday, Sir?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Because Friday is ordinarily meant for non-official business.

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** And yet Government business can have precedence on any Friday, Sir.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Where is the rule? Please point that out.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY:** I think, Sir, that it won't be unfair to the non-official members of this House because the very first non-official resolution is a War resolution similar to ours.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** You are contradicting your Chief who has already observed that the first non-official resolution is not a War resolution at all.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Whom are we to follow then?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Maulvi Abdul Wahab Khan has tabled a resolution as to what would be the fate of India after the War is over. The Congress Party has tabled a resolution as to what would be the position of India according to the Congress point of view, irrespective of

whether India participates in the War or not, and this side of the House, I mean the Congress Party, is anxious to discuss that motion.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** And I suggest, Sir, that Government's motion should come by way of amendment to our motion.

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I suggest, Sir, that if the House agree we can have one day only, namely, the 14th for our War resolution and finish it by sitting till 8-30 p.m. that day. I hope there will be no objection to that.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** I hope, Sir, this extension of special privilege of time will be similarly made applicable to non-official days, if necessary.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** All right.

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Why, Sir?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Well, you cannot have everything for the convenience of Government only ("Hear, hear" from the Opposition Benches). Why not accommodate this side of the House too and settle up matters?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ:** What is the suggestion, Sir?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The suggestion is that we meet on Thursday next and sit till 8-30 p.m. and finish this resolution. We are going to sit for the Government resolution up to 8-30 p.m. on the 14th and it is suggested that we may, if necessary, sit till 8-30 p.m. again on the 15th for the non-official resolution. As for myself, I am quite prepared to do that.

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** In that case I would suggest that the Government resolution may be fixed for both 13th and 14th.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Then the non-official resolution may be taken up on the 15th and the Government resolution on the 13th and 14th December.

## Adjournment.

It being 7-44 p.m.—

The House adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Monday, the 11th December, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

## Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 11th December, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

### Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 214 members

## STARRED QUESTIONS

### (to which oral answers were given)

### Government policy of 50 per cent. appointments to Muslims.

***57. Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Appointment) Department be pleased to state whether the Government policy of 50 per cent appointments to Muslims is being observed in the different offices under Government in Calcutta and district offices in Bengal?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in some quarters, the Government circular on the point is understood not to cover offices under the Court of Wards?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, what steps, if any, do the Government contemplate taking in the matter?

**MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin):** (*a*) Instructions with regard to the observance of the communal ratio decision have been issued to all appointing authorities, and returns of all appointments made after 17th March, 1939, are being examined and will be periodically examined to ensure that the communal decision for filling vacancies available for direct recruitment by 50 per cent Muslims and 50 per cent non-Muslims is observed

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The question whether the communal ratio decision will apply to offices under the Court of Wards is being examined.

**Communal proportion of excise shop vendors in Bakarganj.**

*58. **Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Excise Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the name of the excise shop with the name of the licensee;

(*ii*) the probable income per year of each group of shops, *viz.*—

(1) *ganja*,

(2) opium,

(3) country spirit, and

(4) foreign liquor,

at present existing in the district of Bakarganj;

(*iii*) the total number of each group of shops; and

(*iv*) the number of shops held by—

(1) Caste Hindus,

(2) Mussalmans,

(3) Scheduled Castes,

(4) Christians, and

(5) Buddhists,

to be shown separately group by group?

(*b*) Is there any ratio prescribed to be maintained for distribution of shops among each community?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it has been maintained in the district of Bakarganj?

**MINISTER in charge of the FOREST and EXCISE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb Raikut):** (*a*) I regret that it is not possible to obtain and furnish the information within this short period.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) Does not arise.

**Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দয়া কোরে জানাবেন কি এই প্রশ্নের (*b*) তে যে আছে Is there any ratio prescribed to be maintained for distribution of shops among each community, সেই প্রত্যেক community র জন্যে excise shop ভাগ কোরে দেবার ব্যবস্থা কেন করা হয় নাই ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT:** It is not possible

**Enforcement of the decision of Government regarding communal ratio in public services.**

*89. **Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Appointment) Department be pleased to state whether any orders have been issued to the appointing and selecting authorities for the observance of the ratio question with regard to appointment of different communities to Government services of this province? If so, when?

(*b*) What steps, if any, have the Government taken to ascertain that the ratio question is being given effect to in all the departments of the Government?

(*c*) Have the Government made it clear to those it concerns that a candidate of the Scheduled Castes possessing required minimum qualifications for any post shall be taken as a suitable candidate in absence of a candidate better qualified from that community?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** (*a*) Yes, on 9th August, 1939.

(*b*) Returns have been called for from all appointing authorities in respect of all appointments made after 17th March, 1939. These are being examined, and periodical returns are being prescribed which will be examined to ensure that the communal ratio decision is followed.

(*c*) Rules are being framed to apply the principle of minimum qualifications as far as possible.

**Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what officers actually were appointed to do this work?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** A Special Officer was appointed for the purpose.

**Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** উত্তরে যে আছে—Returns have been called for কতদিন পর পর এই return call করা হয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দয়া কোরে বোলবেন কি ?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** At present the idea is to call six-monthly returns.

**Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** Question (c)র উত্তরে যে বোলেছেন যে rules are being framed to apply the principle of minimum qualifications as far as possible এর দ্বারা বুঝা যাচ্ছে—কোন suitable candidateএর সম্বন্ধে এ পর্য্যন্ত কিছু বোলে দেওয়া হয় নাই। মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি জানেন এই direction না দেবার জন্য Scheduled Castes candidate রা অধিকাংশস্থলেই চাকুরী পাচ্ছে না।

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** I do not accept the supposition of the honourable member.

**Suffering of people of Arial Bil area in Dacca due to water-hyacinth.**

***80. Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department aware that the people of Arial *Bil* area in the Dacca district have been suffering for the last two years for inadequate protective work against water-hyacinth?

(*b*) Has any enquiry been made to ascertain the causes for the discontent of the people and the weakness of the barricades during 1938 and 1939; if so, with what results?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the official Arial *Bil* Central Committee could not arrange for the construction of the protective barricades in due time;

(*ii*) that there was the absence of properly elected representatives of the cultivators on the Committee; and

(*iii*) that there was the want of legal authority of the Committee to raise funds and take immediate action?

(*d*) What action, if any, are the Government proposing to take for the protection of the crop in future years?

**MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan):** (*a*) The protective measures taken are considered adequate.

(*b*) I am not aware of any discontent of the people of the area, nor were the barricades constructed during 1938 and 1939 weak. There has therefore been no occasion for holding any inquiry, but I have been receiving frequent reports from the District Officer on the working of the scheme on the basis of the criticism often appearing in the Press or received from other sources.

(*c*) (*i*) The construction of the barricades in 1938 was done in right time. In 1939 however the construction of the barricade was delayed mainly on account of the difficulty in raising sufficient funds. Timely action is being taken for the construction of the barrier for 1940.

(*ii*) The Committee is not an elected body but the cultivators are fully represented both on the Central Committee as well as the three Thana Committees with the Village Committees constituted thereunder.

(*iii*) The whole organization is on a voluntary basis and there is no question of any legal authority. The people benefited by the scheme are willingly submitting themselves to self-taxation for the cost of the works carried out. It would be a pity to have to take coercive legal measures for this.

*(d)* Subject to the vote of the Assembly, I have included in my Budget proposals for 1940-41 the retention of the post of the Special Officer at Government expense for carrying out adequate protective measures during that year. As stated above, action is being taken for putting up the necessary barrier in time.

**Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that at Sridarpur mouza in Baruikhali union in Srinagar police-station, barricades were constructed with *gojari* posts in the winter of 1934 and paddy protected in the years 1935, 1936 and 1937 by the same barricades?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Sir, I do not know the details; the honourable member seems to know much more than I do.

**Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Special Water-hyacinth Officer of the Government visited the area in the winter of 1936 and took over charge of this barricade and the incomplete barricades of Baruikhali and Madankhali unions in police-station Srinagar?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** I am not fully aware of it; that may be so

**Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether immediately after the harvest of 1937 it was settled by the Special Officer in consultation with the public that the above-mentioned barricade be shifted further south with a view to affording protection to a larger area?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that 125 acres in area were actually destroyed due to the breaches that occurred in 1938 and 1939 involving considerable loss to peasants some of whom complained to Government in writing?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** I have received no such information.

**Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Mr. A. D. Ganguli, I.C.S., Subdivisional Officer, Munshiganj, made enquiries into the cause of breaches and reported that the local officers were responsible for the muddle and Mr. Ganguli actually submitted his report to that effect?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** That may be so, Sir. It appears that the honourable member knows all these things. I do not know.

**Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay a copy of Mr. Ganguli's report on the table?

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** If a copy is available, it will be laid on the table.

### Relief work of the Hajiganj-Matlab Road in Tippera.

*61. **Maulvi JONAB ALI MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the amount sanctioned by Government for the relief work of the Hajiganj-Matlab Road in the district of Tippera;

(*ii*) the amount actually spent for the purpose;

(*iii*) under whose supervision it was spent;

(*iv*) whether the work was done in a contract system;

(*v*) whether the local Presidents of Union Boards had any hand in the matter; and

(*vi*) whether a portion of the unspent balance is still deposited with some private persons?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*)(*vi*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make an inquiry into the matter?

**MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy):** (*a*) (*i*) Nothing was sanctioned by Government for the purpose.

(*ii*) to (*iv*) and (*b*) Do not arise.

Sir, since this question was printed it came to my notice that some money was sanctioned not from the Relief Fund but from the special grants placed at the disposal of the Collector as discretionary grant.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That has nothing to do with the subject-matter here.

**Mr. SHAHEDALI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether a road was constructed this year in the months of Baishak and Jaista running from Hajiganj to Matlab known as the Hajiganj-Matlab Road?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I have no information.

**Mr. SHAHEDALI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether some money was allotted to Kalacho and Rajargaon unions to be spent for that purpose, and whether that amount still remains unspent?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I have no information.

**Bridge over the Damodar at Sadar Chat, Burdwan.**

*62. **Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:** (*a*) With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 405 on 2nd May, 1939, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any arrangement has been made by the Government to construct a bridge over the Damodar river at Sadar Ghat, Burdwan; and

(*ii*) whether any land has been acquired on the other side of the river for the construction of a road?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the work is likely to be taken up?

**MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS Department (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar):** (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Steps are being taken to acquire land.

(*b*) I am awaiting a report from the Hydro-dynamic Research Station, Poona, on the question of the scour likely in the Damodar River. This is necessary to enable the engineers to decide the depth of piers. Owing to the rise in the price of steel, it may be necessary to consider the increased cost of construction even after preliminary work has been done.

**Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:** মহীমহাশয় বোধহয় কি কতদিনের মধ্যে Hydro-dynamic Research Station থেকে report পাওয়া যেতে পারে?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** Sir, it is difficult to give any idea of time, because the institution is not within our control. We have sent reminders and expecting to get the report any moment.

**Breaches caused by flood in the banks of the Gumti.**

*83. **Maulvi MAQBUL HOSAIN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department aware of the fact that there were breaches in the river Gumti in the district of Tippera during the last rainy season owing to flood?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state (1) the number and (2) places of such breaches?

(*c*) Has it caused any damages to the existing crops?

(*d*) If so, what is the rough estimate of such damages?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) I am informed that there was one breach at Baladkuria in the portion of the embankment maintained by Government and that in the other portion there were nine breaches in all, *viz.*, two each at Jatrapur, Sholanal, and Kadamtali-Kahetara and one each at Mohanpur, Balikhara and Syampur.

(*c*) and (*d*) In Panchthupi and Amratali unions in Kotwali police-station about half to two-thirds of the standing *aus* crop was damaged; in Sholanal, Bagsimul, Rajapur, and Sashidal unions the damage was estimated to be about 50 per cent. Conditions were less serious in Burichang union. The damage done in the Fateabad, Subil and Bara Salghar unions in the police-station Debidwar, in Kaimpur and Bayek in police-station Kasba and in Shahebabad union in police-station Burichang was comparatively slight. I am informed that very little damage was caused in consequence of the breach in the portion of the embankment maintained by Government.

**Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what was the amount of damage in figure?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** I want notice.

**Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in that portion of the locality where the embankment is not maintained by Government, the tenure-holders and the zamindars do pay the embankment tax as included within the benefited area?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** I am not quite sure, Sir.

**Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that there have been annual breaches for the last 20 years since the management of the embankment has been taken by the Government?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** Yes, Sir, I admit this is a problem which has remained unsolved for many years.

**Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us what steps Government have taken to prevent the floods causing destruction every year?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** I am afraid it is not humanly possible to prevent flood altogether. What we are trying to do is to minimize its violence as far as possible. After the escape scheme was considered unsuitable, we are considering a flood moderating reservoir scheme.

**Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the escape scheme was accepted by the Government 50 years back? It has been decided by the expert engineers. As a matter of fact, the escape scheme will be found useful in preventing floods and in answer to a question of mine, the Hon'ble Minister was pleased to admit that the escape scheme has been approved by Government.

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** Sir, it is a fact that we thought that the escape scheme would be a solution of the problem. But it was pointed out by our present Chief Engineer that there was a risk of only shifting the flooding from one area to another area. Besides, when I visited Comilla last, a deputation of the cultivators of those areas who met me objected to that scheme. Thirdly, Sir, when I held a Conference there with the Vice-Chairman of the District Board in the absence of the Chairman, the representative of Tripura Raj and others interested, they were all unanimously of the opinion that the escape scheme could not and would not be a success.

**Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the present accepted theory now is that if the embankments on both sides are done away with, floods can be avoided?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** Sir I would welcome the proposal if that could be agreed upon by this House as well as by the people of the affected area.

**Mr. SHAHEDALI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he enquired of the Chairman of the Tippera District Board regarding this?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** I do not understand what enquiry the Hon'ble member wants me to make.

**Mr. SHAHEDALI:** The enquiry regarding the Gumti embankment flood.

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** I do not think any enquiry is needed, as the facts about the Goomti flood are too well known.

**Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that on account of the breach in that portion of the embankment which is within the Tripura State, the crops of Amratoli and Pastati unions within Kotwali thana and of Burichang thana were damaged?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** Yes, Sir.

## Remuneration of copyists of the Criminal Court in Dinajpur and Malda.

*64. **Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state if it is a fact that the remuneration of the copyists of the Criminal Court at Dinajpur and Malda districts has fallen down?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, month by month, for the years 1937, 1938 and 1939, the amount of remuneration drawn by each one of the copyists of the Criminal Court at Dinajpur and Malda?

(*c*) Is there any rule fixing the minimum and maximum remuneration of a copyist?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, what steps do the Government propose to take for maintaining the minimum standard of remuneration of the aforesaid copyists as provided in the rules?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) No maximum is fixed. The desirable minimum is laid down in rule 323 of the Bengal Records Manual and rule 2, Chapter X, page 226 of the High Court Rules and Circular Orders, Criminal, Volume I.

(*d*) In Malda one of the copyists is due for retirement in December, 1939, and no new hand will be taken in his place. In Dinajpur no new appointment will be made until the remunerations of the present incumbents reach the minimum.

**Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** In view of his reply (*d*) that the copyists in Dinajpur and Malda are earning below the minimum fixed, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the actual earnings which the copyists of both Dinajpur and Malda make now?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I ask for notice.

**Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I put a definite question, my question was "will the Hon'ble Minister please lay on the table showing month by month for the years 1937, 1938, 1939" and I expected that we would get some figures. He has had previous notice. I definitely asked for information regarding the earnings of copyists month by month for the years 1937, 1938 and 1939. The purpose of the question has been frustrated, Sir.

Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the copyists both in Dinajpore and Malda were earning below minimum all throughout as is evident from his answer (*d*)?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** If the honourable member will kindly come over to my room, I shall show him the figures. It is not possible for me to state all the figures here at this short notice.

**Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the minimum instead of referring us to the criminal records and all the rest of things?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** That is the easiest way to do it, Sir.

### Opening of Bemorta-Khal in Bagerhat subdivision, Khulna.

***65. Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state what progress has been made towards the opening of the Bemorta *khal* in the Bagerhat subdivision of the Khulna district?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the silting up of the Bemorta *khal* has affected the health, irrigation, navigation and agriculture of the locality; and

(*ii*) that there exists a feeling of agitation amongst the local people over the delay in this matter?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** (*a*) I have received an estimate and am now considering the question of financing the project.

(*b*) (*i*) The attention of the hon'ble member is invited to the reply which I gave on the 1st March, 1938, to part (*b*) of starred question No. 102. I do not think there is any irrigation from this *khal*.

(*ii*) I have no doubt that the people of the locality are interested in the project.

**Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE :** মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি দয়া কোরে বোলবেন তিনি কখন estimateটা পেয়েছেন ?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** I never receive estimates. Estimates are received in office and it is difficult to give the exact date off-hand.

**Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE :** মন্ত্রীমহাশয় উত্তরে যে বোলেছেন যে I am considering the question of financing the project এই বিবেচনা কতদিনে কোরবেন দয়া কোরে বোলবেন কি ?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** I believe it will go to the Cabinet now.

## Cancellation of licences of country spirit shops at Mirik and Kalimpong.

***88. Mr. DAMBER SINGH CURUNG:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forests and Excise Department be pleased to state whether the licences of country spirit shops of Mirik and Kalimpong were once cancelled?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the licences were cancelled; and

(*ii*) by whom and on what grounds these were cancelled?

(*c*) Have the licences been restored again to the old licensees?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state by whom and on what grounds these were again restored?

**The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT:** (*a*) The licences were not cancelled but withdrawn.

(*b*) to (*d*) The licences were withdrawn by the Deputy Commissioner, Darjeeling, on the 31st March, 1939, and 31st October, 1938, as the licensees were women.

Under the fixed system a vendor should retain his licence if his conduct is satisfactory. As the vendors had not committed any irregularity in conducting the shops the licences were restored to them on appeal by the Commissioner of Excise.

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain the thin line of demarcation between the words "cancellation" and "withdrawal"?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if those shops were restored to women or men?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Evidently to women. This question does not arise.

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** With reference to the answers (*b*) to (*d*), viz., the licences were restored to them on appeal by the Commissioner of Excise, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the licensees to whom the licences were restored were men or women?

**The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT:** Women.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten us whether it was because of the legal difficulty —simply because they were women—or it was because of the unsatisfactory conduct of the licensees that the licences were cancelled?

**The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT:** I am not fully aware of the fact, but as far as I can make out, the licences were withdrawn for some irregularities.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain his statement where he says that licences were withdrawn, because the licensees were women?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That is probably the case.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** I beg to submit that first——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Whatever it is, the answer is not problematical; it is a definite one.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Firstly, he says that the licences were withdrawn because the licensees were women. Secondly, he says that the licences were restored because the conduct of the licensees was satisfactory. May I enquire what was the case? Is there any legal difficulty in granting licences to women?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Please put your question in proper form.

**Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any statutory rule whereby the Deputy Commissioner can withhold the licence of any woman simply because she is a woman?

**The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT:** No.

### Appointment of hillmen as Sub-Inspectors of Excise.

***67. Mr. DAMBER SINGH GURUNG:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forests and Excise Department be pleased to state the number of posts of the Excise Sub-Inspectors at present existing in the district of Darjeeling?

(*b*) How many of them are hillmen?

(*c*) How many of the hillmen Sub-Inspectors have been posted in the hills?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that there are lots of touring difficulties in the hills and the officers from the plains find it difficult to go into the interior; and

(*ii*) that there is no dearth of qualified hill boys at present?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, do the Government contemplate recruiting at least as many Sub-Inspectors as there are posts in the hills and post them in the hills?

**The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT:** (*a*) Seven.

(*b*) One.

(*c*) One at present.

(*d*) (*i*) In spite of touring difficulties officers from the plains have all along done this work efficiently.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*e*) In 1937 one hillman was appointed as Sub-Inspector but he resigned on being transferred to a river district. No hillman can be appointed who is not prepared to serve anywhere in the province.

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us if it is a fact that the health of a hillman is adversely affected if he is transferred from the hills to the river?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Minister for Medical Department will answer! (Laughter.)

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of not transferring the hillmen from the hills to the hell (laughter), I mean river.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

**(answers to which were laid on the table)**

### Technical education for employment in Jute Mills.

**15. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department contemplate establishing a technical and allied institution at a central place suiting Jute Mills like the one in Dundee for the training of young men of education for qualifying themselves for work in the superior services in Jute Mills.

**MINISTER in charge of the INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca):** Government have already decided on the establishment of a jute weaving section at the Bengal Textile Institute, Serampore, which, in view of its close proximity to the Jute Mills of the Province, is considered as an ideal place for the purpose, and steps have been taken for the

installation of a complete set of machinery including power-driven plant to that end at the Institute. The section, when fully equipped, will provide ample facilities for the training of young men in the jute industry with a view to enabling them to fill responsible positions in Jute Mills.

**Industrial Exhibition at Chittaranjan Avenue, Calcutta.**

**16. Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the policy followed in the selection of articles for display in the Bengal Government Industrial Museum on Chittaranjan Avenue, Calcutta; and

(*ii*) who is responsible for the selection of the exhibits?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that certain non-Indian and certain non-Bengali products and commercial undertakings have been allowed to avail themselves of the facilities provided by the Industrial Museum? If so, what are they?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of confining the exhibits to purely *swadeshi* products, and preferably to Bengal products?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** (*a*) (*i*) The policy underlying the selection of the exhibits for the Museum is to focus public attention on (*i*) what is being produced in Bengal, and (*ii*) what is being (1) produced outside Bengal but within India and (2) imported into Bengal from outside India with a view to drawing the attention of Bengalees to the possibilities of manufacture in Bengal of the articles now brought from outside the Province and outside India.

(*ii*) The Department of Industries; but the advice of prominent industrialists and businessmen is taken whenever necessary.

(*b*) Yes: a statement of non-Bengalee and non-Indian exhibits is placed on the Library table.

(*c*) Does not arise.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the list placed on the library table regarding the non-Bengalee and non-Indian exhibits is complete or there are some others left out?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** When this list was sent up, at that time it was complete. There may now be new exhibits.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that P. & O. Shipping Co., B. I. S. N. Shipping Co., East Indian Railway, Mysore soap and Bangalore silk are among the exhibits and they have been there for a long time? May I know why they have been kept out of the list?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The information has been given by the Hon'ble Minister.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** But why have they been kept out of the list?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You are assuming that.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** No; they are not in the list.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am afraid, you do not realise it. How do you know that they are exhibits?

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** I have seen them.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Ask him first if these are exhibits.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** May we know if the Mysore silk and P. & O. Co. and B. I. S. N. Shipping Co. and Bata shoes are among the exhibits?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** I am not aware of it. But as the honourable member has mentioned the fact, I will enquire into the matter.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any fee is levied on or obtained from the exhibitors, or if the exhibitors are required to spend money of their own for the construction of almirahs and other arrangements for the exhibits?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** I want notice.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what fee has been realised, if at all, from the Remington Typewriter Company?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** I cannot say off-hand.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any discriminatory arrangement is made in favour of non-Indian exhibits, like P. & O. and B. I. S. N. Co.'s?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am afraid, Dr. Sanyal, you are going to the habit of supplying information. You are giving details. You may very well ask a general question.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the B. I. S. N. Co., did not pay any fee?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** I am not aware of it.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that Bata Shoe Co. are not required to pay any fees?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Is it a fact that the Bata Shoe Co. are required to pay fees?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what amount of fees, if any, are paid by the Bata Shoe Co.?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I m afraid, Dr Sanyal, I have not been able to make you understand the position. You are asking questions about the exhibits. First you have to ask whether the Bata Shoe Company is an exhibitor. The second thing you may ask is whether it pays any fee, and thirdly, you may ask if there is discrimination in regard to payment of fees. You are assuming the first and the second. I can't understand how the third follows?

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** That is why I have got to follow it up with a third question

May I take it that the Hon'ble Minister wants notice for making full investigation into the matter?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** Yes.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased also to enquire in that connection whether there is any officer who described Godrej and Boyce as British?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question does not arise.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the statement which has been given in the library the name of Godrej and Boyce appears?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** Yes.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** In what group?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** In the non-Bengali group

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who are the persons amongst prominent industrialists and businessmen that were consulted in the selection of the exhibits?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** I want notice.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** All these will be held over for notice?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Not held over.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** It is only fair that the Hon'ble Minister should come prepared and not take the time of the House unnecessarily.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You are as helpless as I am The only difference between you and me is that I sometimes get despaired, but you do not. (Laughter)

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if Indian commercial opinion in this city was taken to ascertain if foreign products, non-Indian products, are to be shown there as stated here, with a view to find out the possibility of their manufacture in Bengal like the B.I.S.N. Co.?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** Will the honourable member please repeat his question?

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** All right, Sir. Will the Hon'ble Minister please state the proportion of space occupied by non-Indian and non-Bengalee exhibitors in proportion to the space occupied by exhibitors from Bengal?

**The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca:** That is a matter which concerns the Industries Department. I cannot go and measure the proportion of space.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** You are in charge of the Industries Department, you can ask for notice and ask for this measurement to be made by that department.

### Problem of landless labourers in Bengal.

**17. Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that there are a good number of landless labourers in the Province;

(*ii*) that a large number of *jotes* have passed from the hands of the agriculturists to that of the non-agriculturists; and

(*iii*) that the number of the landless labourers are on the increase?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, he proposes to take in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) (*i*) No up-to-date information as to the number of landless labourers is available, but the census figures of 1931 show that out of a total male rural population of 23,740,161 only 2,241,853 or less than 10 per cent. were agricultural labourers.

(*ii*) It is not possible to make any estimate of the number of such transfers in the absence of a satisfactory definition of an agriculturist.

(*iii*) Till the next census figures are available no such generalisation can be made.

(*b*) Government do not consider the number of landless labourers so high as to warrant any action on the part of Government.

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if he is aware that being unable to meet their loans many agriculturists are selling off their lands and becoming landless?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Yes; probably there is such a situation in some districts.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please give us figures of landless labourers as revealed in the Census Report of 1921?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I refer the honourable member to the Census Report of that year.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Sir, that is no answer to my question.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I consider that to be a fair answer.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether it is a fact or not that the number of landless labourers have gone up between 1921 and 1931?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I want notice.

**Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what are the sources of his information regarding the figure of landless labourers except those mentioned in the Census Report?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Nothing else except the answer that I have already given. I have had to depend entirely upon the Census Report.

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** In view of the answer just now given to my question, will the Hon'ble Minister please state what steps Government propose to take to prevent these agriculturists losing their lands and becoming landless?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** It is very difficult to generalize without figures before the next Census Report.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state on what basis the Government opinion was formulated, namely, that they do not think that the number of landless labourers is now so high in Bengal as to warrant any action on the part of Government?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Sir, it is only 10 per cent., being only 22 lakhs out of 2 crores and 37 lakhs.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Is the Hon'ble Minister referring to the Census Report of 1931?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Yes.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in the course of the last 8 years during which period the agriculturists of this province have passed through a severe economic crisis, there has been a huge increase in the number of landless labourers?

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I have very clearly stated here that Government cannot generalize before the next Census Report is available.

**Communal ratio in Government services.**

**18. Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the communal ratio decision in Government services as recently arrived at has been given effect to; and

(*ii*) whether appointments by direct recruitment and by promotion are being made under this ratio system?

(*b*) What steps, if any, do the Government propose to take in case of its non-observance?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** (*a*) Instructions with regard to the observance of the communal ratio decision have been issued to all appointing authorities and returns of all appointments made after 17th March, 1939, are being examined, and will be examined periodically, to ensure that the communal decision is followed in filling vacancies.

(*b*) Rules are being framed to implement the Government decision, and steps will be taken to see that the communal ratio decision is enforced.

**Mr. MONMOHON DAS:** With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister please state how long it will be before the rules are framed and steps will be taken to enforce the communal ratio decision?

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** The rules will be ready in a month's time.

(Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas rose to put a supplementary question.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have already called the next question as we are rather pressed for time on account of the Supplementary Demands.

**Unsafe and unsatisfactory means of traffic between police-stations Bashkhali and Satkania in Chittagong.**

**19. Mr. MAHIM CHANDRA DAS:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) that the distance required to be travelled by the people of police-station Bashkhali to attend the civil courts and *khas mahal* and circle offices situated in police-station Satkania is some 25 miles;

(*ii*) that much of the way lies through the Bashkhali hills about 7 miles in length full of wild animals such as elephant, tiger, rhinoceros, and the like;

(*iii*) that there is no road for vehicular traffic connecting the two thanas;

(*iv*) that the annual toll of human lives is large;

(*v*) that in the first thana exhibition an interesting exhibit was an intending visitor mutilated on the way by an elephant;

(*vi*) that inter-traffic between the two stations is exclusively carried on shoulders; and

(*vii*) that a road for vehicular service will open markets for agricultural produce and forest products?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate the construction of a motor road connecting the two police-stations?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** (*a*) (*i*) Yes, in some cases; but several important places in the police-station such as Benigram, Sadanpur, Kalipur and Jaldi are only eight to twelve miles from the civil courts.

(*ii*) I am informed that the hilly portion of the road is about 5 miles in length and that wild elephants, but not the other animals mentioned, are sometimes seen during the harvest season.

(*iii*), (*vi*) and (*vii*) Yes.

(*iv*) No; I am informed that casualties due to attacks by wild elephants are very rare.

(*v*) I have no information to that effect.

(*b*) The proposed road is of purely local importance and therefore seems to be a concern of the Chittagong District Board.

**Construction and maintenance of new and old embankments to water-courses.**

**20. Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department be pleased to state the present policy of Government regarding the construction and maintenance of new and old embankments to water-courses?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the insistence of the officers of the Irrigation Department to allow unrestricted flow of flood water, and of their refusal to approve even of schemes for the strengthening and repairs of existing embankments?

(*c*) If so, what steps does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take in the matter of minimising the sufferings of the affected people?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** (*a*) The policy which is based on resolutions Nos. 5, 6 and 9 (*a*) of the conference on river problems in Bengal, held in July, 1938, is to prevent the construction of new embankments and to abandon old ones, wherever possible, that is, without causing loss of human life and extensive and recurring damage to crops. A copy of the resolutions is placed on the Library table.

(*b*) and (*c*) The officers follow the policy mentioned above which is calculated to solve the difficulties created by human interference with the free flow of water.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if Government has accepted the recommendations of that conference, particularly the note contained in the resolutions Nos. 5, 6 and 9 (*a*)?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** Generally.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if he is aware that the removal of the old embankments does nowhere occur in the resolution but that the word is "old obstruction"?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** I am not quite sure about that. Anyhow we go by the general sense of the resolutions.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what arrangements Government have made to see that the people whose crops are destroyed as a result of this policy are properly compensed?

**The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** Sir, there is no question of recompensing for losses due to natural causes.

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.)

*(After adjournment.)*

**Adjournment Motion.**

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motion to which I have got your consent.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** What is your adjournment motion?

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** It runs as follows: I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the ill-treatment and assault upon an undertrial prisoner named Nripendra Kumar Chakrabarty, B.A. Sub-editor of a newspaper, while in custody between 2nd and 4th December.

I have also given a statement of facts.

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Sir, the point is that an allegation of this character was made before the Chief Presidency Magistrate who examined the person but found no marks of assault and sent him to the jail custody, and it is not in record there. But, I believe, the Chief Presidency Magistrate has said that the prisoner can consult his lawyer about it. There is no proof whatsoever that this was done, and I feel there must be something definitely established before the thing can be discussed in the House. If the court had recorded that such a thing had happened or the man had brought a case and proved it, then there would be some justification for it. (Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Then it would be a *sub-judice* case.) I am not claiming that it is *sub-judice*.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** The Hon'ble the Home Minister is very innocently suggesting a course which if taken up by the party concerned would not have necessitated this motion to have been moved in this House. The whole matter is this; he was arrested without warrant, he was taken to the police lock-up and there he was confined, and on the first opportunity that he got after production before the Chief Presidency Magistrate, the gentleman complained that he had been assaulted. He showed marks of injury, and I am sorry that I have to contradict the Hon'ble the Home Minister. He

complaint was noted by the Chief Presidency Magistrate—Mr. Waliul Islam. He has not made any enquiries, he has not taken any cognizance. Therefore, herein we demand an enquiry into this matter. We expected that the Hon'ble the Home Minister after getting notice of this motion would at least be able to apprise the House as to what were the actual facts. But this is an instance of gross abuse of power given under the Defence of India Rules.

**The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:** Sir, there is a short-notice question on the subject and I am prepared to furnish information in answer to it.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** In any case, I am afraid the adjournment motion does not arise, firstly, because the complainant referred to has already approached the Chief Presidency Magistrate, and the remedy is open to him up till now. Whatever it is there is another vital ground for not admitting this adjournment motion. The incident took place on the 4th December, and it was not till the 8th that the notice was given and, I am afraid, under the circumstances, I cannot admit this adjournment motion.

**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will be pleased to consider this point that the occurrence took place inside the jail and the undertrial prisoner had had no opportunity to bring it to the notice of the court before he was produced there.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am afraid I cannot allow you to make a statement. I have heard the case carefully from Mr. Gupta and I have given my ruling. Therefore, I cannot allow you to re-open the question.

## SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

### 13—Other Taxes and Duties.

(Mr. Speaker then called the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy to move his motion No. 2.)

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** On a point of order, Sir. It is rather regrettable that I have to draw your attention to Governor's Rule 17 relating to supplementary demands and the Government of India Act provision under sections 78 and 81. When the Hon'ble Mr. Sarker moved his supplementary demand the other day he did not mention as is required under sub-section (3) of section 78, where

it is definitely required under the Act that no demand of a grant shall be made except on the recommendation of the Governor, but merely stated that under section 78——

**The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER:** But I have made no demand for a grant. I have only presented the estimate.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Under the rules it is provided that there will be one or more days for general discussion as well as for demands for grants. I submit that here we have got one item in which discussion of the estimates of charged revenues comes in, and I submit that all the stages as required under the rules of the Assembly be gone through before you call upon any Hon'ble Minister to submit his demand.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** A general discussion, I think, might be allowed, but there is no option left to me to fix additional time. I can allot ten minutes for general discussion and then take up the "demands".

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** The general discussion that I raise is about the very urgent and immediate requirements of the Civil Works Department for a sum of Rs. 50,000 for the reconstruction of certain Government House servants' quarters. The supplementary budget, as you are aware, is maily for very urgent work which could not be anticipated when the budget was framed. It is rather surprising that Government would come forward with Rs 50,000 of charged revenue at such a late stage as this. This matter could have been postponed till the next year, and the Hon'ble Minister would have been well-advised to ask his department to hold their soul in patience till the main budget came up in February or March next. I would not take any more time, but I submit that Government certainly could anticipate the repairs of Government quarters beforehand. There was no unusual circumstance, such as flood, earthquake, etc. So far as this item is concerned, I would ask this House to scrutinize it carefully.

**The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER:** I think this House cannot discuss an item of Governor's expenditure.

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Sir, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 20,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" during the year 1939-40.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

## 40—Agriculture.

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Sir, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 7,15,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" during the year 1939-40.

**Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI:** Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 7,15,000 under the head "40—Agriculture" during the year 1939-40 be reduced by Rs. 100 to discuss the policy of introduction of regulation of the growing of jute in the Province.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 7,15,000 under the head "40—Agriculture" during the year 1939-40 be reduced by Rs. 100 to discuss the manner of regulation of the growing of jute.

May I also move, Sir, No. 14?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** "14" does not strictly arise. It is rather too wide and is slightly beyond the scope.

**Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI:** সভাপতি মহাশয়, কিছুকাল পূর্ব্বে, যখন বর্ষাকালের কাছাকাছি—একদিন খবরের কাগজে আমরা পড়েছিলাম যে Bengal Governmentএর jute regulation কাজের জন্য প্রায় চার হাজার কেন—তার চেয়ে আরো কিছু বেশী লোকের দরকার—তখন আমাদের মনে যুগপৎ ভয় এবং একটু আনন্দ হোয়েছিলো। আনন্দ হোয়েছিলো এইজন্য যে, বহুকাল ধোরে—দেশী মন্ত্রীরা আমাদের এই বাংলাদেশে কৃষিকার্য্যের যাতে সুবিধা হয় তার জন্য চেষ্টা কোরছেন বোলে শোনা যায়, কিন্তু কার্য্যতঃ সেটা দেখতে পাওয়া যায় না। কাজেই মন্ত্রী মহাশয়রা যখন এইরকম একটা step নেওয়ার অগ্রসর হয়েছেন তখন আমাদের মনের মধ্যে একটু আনন্দ হলো। কিন্তু তারপরে যখন কর্ম্মচারী নিযুক্ত হোয়ে কৃষকদের কৃষিক্ষেত্রে গিয়ে তাদের কোন জমিতে কে কোথায় কত পাট চাস করে বা কোরেছিলো ইত্যাদি যখন তদন্ত কোরতে লাগলো তখন তাদের মনের অবস্থা যেটা আমি সম্প্রতি শুনতে পেয়েছি সেই কথা বোলবো। এখন মন্ত্রীমহাশয় আমাদের সাম্নে যে demand এনেছেন তাতে দেখা যাচ্ছে যে ৭,১৫,০০০ টাকা খরচ হবে—এবার যে সমস্ত জায়গায় পাট হোয়েছে সেই পাটের জমির একটা সার্ভে এবং রেকর্ড করবার জন্য। এখন এ সম্বন্ধে একটা কথা আমার বলবার রোয়েছে এই যে স্বভাবতই পূর্ব্ববঙ্গে যেমন পাট হয়, পশ্চিমবঙ্গে সেরকম হয় না। পশ্চিমবঙ্গে আমরা যখন আমাদের পাড়ায় বা গাঁয়ে, সাম্নে পিছনে, আশে পাশে চারদিকে তাকাই তখন পাট না দেখে আমরা ধানের গাছই দেখি, পশ্চিমবঙ্গের গৃহস্থরা যৎসামান্য পাট যা বুনে থাকে তা গৃহে ব্যবহারের জন্য, তার অতিরিক্ত যৎসামান্য থাকিলে তাহা বিক্রি করে। এরূপস্থলে যখন কর্ম্মচারীরা সার্ভে কোরতে বেরুলেন, তখন চাসীদের মনে একটা আতঙ্ক হয়েছে। পশ্চিমবঙ্গে এও দেখা যায় যে এ বছর যদি একটা বিশেষ জমিতে পাট হয়, আগামী বছরেও যে সেখানে হবে তার কোন মানে নাই। মেদিনীপুরের মতন জেলাতে এবং অন্যান্য জেলাতেও মাঠে কদাচিৎ পাট চাস হয়, বোসা জায়গায় যেমন আলুর চাস হয়, শনের চাস হয় সেরকমভাবে পাট চাস হয়। যে সমস্ত জায়গায় গবর্ণমেণ্টে কর্ম্মচারীরা যেয়ে বোলেছেন—"কোন কোন জমিতে পাটের চাস করা হয়, আমাদের জানিয়ে দাও" সেই সমস্ত জায়গার লোকের মনে ভয়ের সঞ্চার হোয়েছে, এবং সেটা হওয়া স্বাভাবিক। পশ্চিমবঙ্গের অনেক জায়গায় তুঁতের চাস, আখের চাস ও পানের চাস হোতো। বহু জমিতে এখন আর সে সব চাস হয় না, কিন্তু ঐ সব চাসের জন্য যে বিঘা প্রতি ৭।৮ টাকা খাজনা

বেড়েছিলো,—একরে কুড়ি বাইস টাকা খাজনা বেড়েছিলো, সে খাজনা রোয়েই গেছে, যদিও এখন সে সব জমিতে আর কিছুই হয় না। অথচ সে সব জমি সে সকল চাসীদের ছেড়ে দেবার উপায় নাই, কারণ তাদের বাস্তুর সামিল সে সব জমি বোলে যদিও তাদের বৃদ্ধি হিসাবে কর দিতে বিশেষ কষ্ট হোচ্ছে তবু ছেড়ে দেবার উপায় নাই। এ বিষয়টা যারা পশ্চিমবঙ্গে ঘুরেছেন তারা সকলেই উপলব্ধি কোরে থাকবেন। সেইজন্য আজ চাসীদের মনে স্বভাবতই এই ভয় জেগেছে যে এই যে পাট চাসের জমি আজ সার্ভে হোচ্ছে এর ফলে জমির খাজনা বাড়বে কিনা? আমি মন্ত্রী-মহাশয়কে জিজ্ঞাসা কোরছি—গভর্ণমেন্ট মনে খাজনা বাড়ানোর কোন অভিসন্ধিই বলুন আর দুরভিসন্ধিই বলুন, পোষন করেন কিনা? (Hon'ble the Minister: English?) মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বোলছেন "মেম্বররা যদি কোরতে চান করুন।" এর অর্থ জানতে চাই গভর্ণমেন্টের মনের ভিতর এরকম কোন উদ্দেশ্য আছে কিনা। কারণ, দেখা গেছে, যখন তুঁতের চাস হোয়েছে, আখের চাস হোয়েছে, তখন যেমন ঐ উৎপন্ন জিনিষের দাম বেশী থাকার দরুণ খাজনা বেশী হোয়েছিলো, কিন্তু এখন আর সে সব শস্য হয় না অথচ খাজনা রয়েই গেছে। কাজেই এটা আমরা নিশ্চিতরূপে জানতে চাই এর দ্বারা খাজনা বাড়াবার একটা মতলব রোয়েছে কিনা? কারণ এখন যুদ্ধের জন্য এবং অন্যান্য কারণেও পাটের দাম বেড়েছে। তারপরে দর কমে গিয়ে যখন পাট হবে না—অথচ রেকর্ড করা জমি—পাটের জমি বোলে খাজনা বেড়ে যাবে, এইটা হবে কিনা গভর্ণমেন্টকে স্পষ্ট কোরে জানিয়ে দিতে আমি দাবি কোরছি। তা ছাড়াও আজকে যে জমিতে পাট চাস হয়, কাল সে জায়গায় হয়তো পাট চাস হবে না,—আমাদের অভিজ্ঞতা থেকেই এটা বোলতে পারি। কাজেই আজকে যে নির্দ্দিষ্ট জমিটা পাটের জমি বোলে রেকর্ড হবে সেটা চিরকাল পাটেরই জমি থাকবে কিনা—কে ঠিক কোরবে? যে agency সেটা ঠিক কোরে দেবে সে agency কে কিছু দিতে হবে কিনা। যেমন সেচ বিভাগের মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের জলনিকাশের কর্ম্মচারীকে যদি কিছু না দেওয়া হয় তাহলে জলনিকাশের কোন সম্ভাবনাই নাই। সেইরূপ হবে কিনা?

তারপর আর একটা কথা। সেটা হোচ্ছে কর্ম্মচারী নিয়োগের কথা। যে সমস্ত কর্ম্মচারী নিয়োগ হোয়েছে,—আমি জানি তাদের ভিতর অনেক যোগ্য লোককে বাদ দিয়ে অপেক্ষাকৃত অযোগ্য লোক নেওয়া হয়েছে। গ্রাজুয়েটকে বাদ দিয়ে under-graduate বা matriculate নেওয়া হয়েছে। আমি এ বিষয় বেশী জোর দেবো না। অনেক মেম্বর আছেন যাঁরা তাদের সম্প্রদায়ের দিক থেকে এবিষয় বোলবেন। যে কারণে এটা করা হোয়েছে সেটা আলোচনা করা অনাবশ্যক, আমি শুধু এইটেই বোলছি। তারপর যুদ্ধের সময়, যখন পাটের বেশী দর হওয়ার দরুণ পাট চাস বেশী হওয়া আবশ্যক তখন চাসীদের মনে এরকম একটা আশঙ্কা করিয়ে দেওয়া উচিত নয় বিশেষতঃ যখন বেশী পাট চাস হোলে লোকের ঘরে বেশী টাকা আসবে তখন চাসটা যাতে কমে সেটা করা উচিত হবে না।

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Sir, may I request you to allot time for each of the demands separately so that we can regularize our speeches?

**Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** Sir, I want to speak a few words on "Agriculture".

**Mr. SPEAKER:** We have as yet "Agriculture," "Famine Relief" and "Loans and Advances".

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** May I suggest, Sir, that at 6-10 "Agriculture" be finished, at 6-20 "Famine Relief" be finished and at 6-30 guillotine will fall.

**Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not intend to criticize in a spirit of criticism, but I want to give a few suggestions and I hope they will receive the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture. In the preparation of the record, I submit that the Government should not act upon the records of the land that were prepared in a particular year. Because, the Government are probably aware—I do not know whether the Minister is aware of the fact—that cultivators on account of various reasons, practically on account of economic difficulties, cannot grow jute on the land which is capable of yielding jute, and as a matter of fact cultivator often changes his plots of land. Paddy may be grown on a land in which jute has been grown in the previous year. So, it is very usafe to act upon the records of the land on which jute is grown in a particular year. It will be safe, Sir, if we take the records of the lands on which jute was grown for the last five years. I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to an article written on the subject in "Arthik Jagat". Sir, I have got little time at my disposal to quote it here and I wish the Hon'ble Minister will kindly peruse that article, and he will be able to understand that it will not be safe to act upon the records of the land on which jute was grown in any particular year.

The second point which I want to submit through you to the Hon'ble Minister is the fact that the records that are prepared may be defective for various reasons, and one of the principal reasons is this that if the cultivation be restricted in the locality in which the lands are capable of yielding jute only, it will be a serious loss to the cultivators. So, I submit, Sir, that the Hon'ble Minister should accept my suggestion and try to regulate his action in view of the suggestions that have been made by me. Before I sit down I only wish that he should read the illuminating article in the "Arthik Jagat" on the subject.

**The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the motions. Mr. Maiti has referred to one or two points. His first point is that although very little jute is grown in Western Bengal, yet the officers of the Jute Registration Scheme have gone there and enquired of people as to the lands on which they sowed jute in the current year. This is said to have created a good deal of apprehension in the minds of the people and from that my honourable friend asks whether it is the intention of the Government to levy any tax on the cultivators of jute, or as he put it "পাটের ট্যাক্স" whether the rents of the cultivators are intended to be enhanced. That is the question which he has put. I submit, Sir, that my friend is absolutely wrong in his apprehension. There is no intention in the mind of the Government to enhance the rents. In fact, Government cannot enhance the rents of the cultivators. It is only the landlords

who can do so, and they also have got their own limitation. They also cannot do that at their sweet-will. (A Voice from the Opposition: There are khasmahal lands.) I know there are khasmahal areas, but my honourable friend knows that the percentage of khasmahal lands in the whole of Bengal is very small and still lesser is the percentage of khasmahal jute lands. Therefore, the apprehension is unfounded. I can assure my honourable friend that the enhancement of rent has never been in the mind of the Government in connection with jute registration or jute regulation scheme. Honourable members of the House have heard very often, I think, from Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy that on account of section 75A of the Bengal Tenancy Act, landlords, including Government, cannot enhance rents for the next ten years. However, I disabuse the minds of the honourable members that there is no such intention on the part of Government.

Secondly, so far as taxation is concerned, if regulation is resorted to, then a small fee may be levied on jute-growers for the purpose of recovering a part of the cost that will be incurred in enforcing the scheme. But I remind my honourable friend again that the whole thing will have to be sanctioned by this House. Unless this House accepts a scheme of taxation no taxation can be levied——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am very sorry, I have to stop the Hon'ble Minister here But I have to finish the whole thing by half past six.

The motion of Mr. Nikunja Behary Maiti that the demand of Rs. 7,15,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100 to discuss the policy of introduction of regulation of the growing of jute in the Province, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Nikunja Behary Maiti that the demand of Rs. 7,15,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100 to discuss the manner of regulation of the growing of jute, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr Tamizuddin Khan that a sum of Rs. 7,15,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" during the year 1939-40 was then put and agreed to.

### 54—Famine Relief.

**The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 6,74,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine Relief" during the year 1939-40.

**Mr. SHAHEDALI:** Sir, I beg to move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 6,74,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine Relief" be reduced by Rs. 100 for not taking effective steps for controlling the Gumti floods in the district of Tippera.

Since we have come to this House, from the very beginning of the session there have been number of questions before the House regarding the Gumti floods——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am afraid that question does not arise here. It is not a subject-matter of the supplementary demand.

**Mr. SHAHEDALI:** It has been mentioned in the explanatory memorandum that part of the money will be spent for controlling floods.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** But not the Gumti floods. You cannot refer to Gumti. You can make a general reference to floods. I am afraid, it is not in order.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy that a sum of Rs. 6,74,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine Relief" during the year 1939-40, was then put to the House and agreed to.

## Loans and Advances.

**The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 47,50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances by Provincial Government" during the year 1939-40.

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 47,50,000 be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the inadequacy of the grant.

**Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 47,50,000 be reduced by Rs. 100.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am afraid oppressive method followed by the co-operative banks is not a subject-matter of the demand. The motion is out of order.

**Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 47,50,000 be reduced by Rs. 100.

I formally move it.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 47,50,000 be reduced by Rs. 13,50,000.

I formally move it.

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** By my motion I want to discuss the inadequacy of the grant. That the demand is inadequate need not be argued upon. The statement that has been published by Government under the heading "Economic distress in Bengal on account of the floods of 1938 and the drought of 1939" will speak for itself. From that statement we find that agricultural loans amounting to Rs. 32,62,500 were distributed in 1938-39 and Rs. 37,00,000 in 1939-40 up to September. Total Rs. 69,62,000. Honourable members of this House will be surprised to learn that these Rs. 69,62,000 were distributed as agricultural loan to 83 lakhs of people. Only a rule of three will convince you how much per head the agricultural loan was distributed. I say this from the facts and figures supplied by Government. However, I do not know if these 83 lakhs of agriculturists include their women and children also. So let us divide these 83 lakhs by 4, because 4 persons may be taken as forming an average family, and we get about 21 lakhs of families who got the loan. That is, an average family got three rupees and a few annas.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I hope you will divide your time in a similar way. (Laughter.)

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** From the facts and figures supplied by Government we find that Rs. 69,62,000 had been distributed by Government as agricultural loan to 21 lakhs of agricultural families. Now, let us see what were the facts. I believe the honourable members who come from the rural constituencies will bear me out that the agricultural loan which had been distributed in most of the cases did not exceed Rs. 3 per family and in many cases it was Re. 1 only. The result had been that the agriculturists being unable to raise loans otherwise, had to sell the little silver that their women-folk possessed. I have seen with my own eyes that in local *hats* these agriculturists sold the little silver which their women possessed to the *banias* in order to purchase seeds to sow their lands with. I believe that the members opposite will also bear me out that such instances were not rare.

Another result was that many agriculturists having no other source to raise money for purchasing seeds had to sell a porton of their holdings out and out. Had the amount of loan been sufficient such results would not happen?

Another thing which struck me was the method of distributing this agricultural loan which had been the case of misery to the poorer section of the agriculturists. These agricultural loans were distributed

to groups of persons, say, Rs. 20 to 10 persons and Rs. 25 to 15 persons and the like, with the result that the poorer section was not accepted by the more solvent agriculturists as members of their group. Eventually, these poorer agriculturists being unable to form any group could not get any agricultural loan.

This being the position, I beg to submit that Government should always be more alive to the interests of these agriculturists at the time of cultivation and sowing, not only for the sake of the poorer agriculturists themselves but for the sake of agriculture, because agriculture is the main basis of the social structure of this province. Agriculture must be saved at any cost. All the lands must be allowed to be sown and the agriculturists must be provided with sufficient fund for the purpose of cultivation.

I am not here only to make destructive criticisms, but I want to make some constructive suggestions also. I, in this House, tabled a resolution, asking that Government should promote a bank, say, with Rs. 5 crores as capital with branches at every thana with a working capital of Rs. 1 lakh to distribute loans to the 10 unions on an average under each thana, so that every union might get Rs. 10,000 as agricultural loan to be distributed to the agriculturists for the purpose of cultivation. Government need not spend any money over it. The public would supply the money if Government guaranteed the payment of principal and the interest putting the whole machinery under the control of Government. If that was done, rural credit would again be available and the agriculturists would again get loans for the purpose of cultivation. The poorer agriculturists would not any more suffer for want of money. May I hope that Government will still give my proposal due consideration?

With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** I beg to move my motion, namely, that the demand be reduced by the sum of Rs. 13,50,000 only with a view to find out the best channel for spending the money that Government would like to spend for advances to cultivation in future, and I have framed the motion in this form only because under the rules I have no other option but to put it as a reduction of the whole demand by the sum meant for the Provincial Co-operative Bank. The present position is that we have two machineries or channels through which Government distribute loans for agricultural relief. One machinery is the Union Committees set up by the Subdivisional Officers under the instructions of the Department of Land Revenue; and the other is the co-operative machinery. You are all aware, Sir, so far as the co-operative machinery is concerned, it has been admitted by every person, even by the Registrar of the Co-operative Department and also by the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Finance, that for the last few years

due to "departmental mismanagement and ignorance of banking methods and principles," the Provincial Co-operative Bank has come to a very bad plight.

Under these circumstances, unless and until we feel sure that the money that will be spent through the Co-operative Department will be properly utilized, it is fair that one machinery only should be utilised and Government would do well to proceed to manage the loans to cultivators through direct Government machinery. I submit that so far as the Provincial Bank is concerned, we have had from time to time numerous reports of maladministration, defalcation and the like. It is not my purpose to-day to try to discredit that bank. After all it is an institution which we all want to improve, but as it now stands we know that the balance-sheet of the bank is full of numerous blemishes. To-day even on the 11th December, 1939, we have not yet got the balance-sheet of this bank for the year ending June, 1939, published. Curiously enough there is no manager of the bank appointed as yet. It is reported on rumour that the appointment of the manager is dependent upon whether Government is going to give an extension to the present Registrar, who has an eye on this office in case his present services are not extended——

**The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER:** Sir, can he raise all these questions in a Supplementary Budget?

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** I submit that if money is advanced through the Provincial Co-operative Bank then the rate of interest payable by the individual cultivator would be very much higher, because Government has, as it is now understood, provided Rs. 3¼ per cent. as interest to be paid by the Provincial Bank, whereas the Provincial Bank would ask for 5 per cent. from the Central Banks and the Central Banks in their turn will take 7 per cent. to Rs. 8-6 per cent. from Primary Societies. Naturally, therefore, the societies would not be in a position to advance money to individual borrowers at a rate less than 9 per cent; whereas, so far as Governments direct tacavi loan is concerned, I understand—because there was a conference and there it was decided—that Government were prepared to advance loans at 6¼ per cent. or even at a lesser rate. That being the position it would not be desirable to set up two machineries competing with one another in the rural areas and having a reduplication of the same kind of work, for otherwise, the agriculturists will suffer. The rules of business of the Co-operative Department also provide certain rigours which it would be impossible for the agriculturists at the present stage to bear, and it would be unwise to start new societies overnight just to have crop loans advanced. I understand that nearly 6,300 new societies have been started by the department in the course of two-

months. The total number of primary rural societies in Bengal is about 20,000 which have come into existence in a period covering more than 30 years, whereas in the course of two months now this "assiduous department" has been successful in having 6,300 new societies started. Sir, you can quite imagine that each such society would require on an average 25 members, making a total of 1½ lakhs of members; and 1½ lakhs of members have had to be convinced about the utility of Co-operation and of joint liability etc. Surely, that would be a tremendous task and it is only magic which could give the department the power to achieve such an end. I submit therefore that this system is rotten to the core, and there can be no justification for starting such a large number of societies. I may state here that in a conference held in Madras on the 27th and 28th October of the Provincial Co-operative Banks and the All-India Co-operative Institutes' Association it was recommended that although generally speaking they liked something to be done so far as Bengal's rural credit was concerned yet they said that "the expansion ought to proceed on cautious lines and without undue haste." If you hastily start societies in a time of distress then the societies are bound to collapse in no time. In fact that has been one of the main reasons of the failure of many of these banks. The Registrar himself said sometime ago that because a large number of societies were constituted in the course of two years,—2,000 new societies were constituted in the course of two years—therefore a certain amount of failure at the time of economic distress was caused. I beg therefore to submit that it would not be desirable to place this sum of money at present in the hands of the Provincial Co-operative Bank which has already had a bad reputation created for it. It would be very much desirable to have that bank's financial position and management properly investigated by an expert committee and after that the scheme for placing further funds in the hands of this bank may be thought of. I have carefully gone through a series of comments published in the local newspapers about the administration of the Co-operative Department and of the Provincial Bank in particular and I have found that there have been levelled so many serious charges and none of these charges were properly replied to—that one has to hang down his head in shame to have a bank of that character with 24 Directors, one of the Directors being our esteemed colleague Mr. W. C. Wordsworth. I have never heard, and I do not know if Mr. Wordsworth in his own country has had any experience of any commercial undertaking having 24 Directors of whom 21 exist at present. These Directors draw enormous travelling fees——

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am afraid Dr. Sanyal, these observations are not quite relevant to the present discussion which is discussion on the policy of loan.

**Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** I submit, therefore, that so long as these drawbacks are not removed it would not be desirable to place any money in the hands of the Provincial Co-operative Bank. If you want to do any real tangible good to the cultivators, have a new machinery set up. So long as you cannot do that and remove all the present evils which at present exist, it would be very much better to depend on Government officers distributing this money to the people through the help of the Union Board Committees as was constituted last year. We cannot afford to place further burden of loss on our poor tax-payers as had to be done on the occasion of the last advance of Rs. 20 lakhs to the Provincial Banks to meet the losses incurred through the ill-conceived schemes of Jute Sale Societies.

**The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER:** Sir, in the absence of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Department I am unable to answer all the questions put by Dr. Sanyal and I do not consider it necessary either that in a discussion on the Supplementary Budget we should review the whole co-operative movement. The point here is that we have advanced Rs. 13 lakhs to the Provincial Co-operative Bank It is not that we have set up a separate machinery for giving agricultural loans. The machinery is there and they approached us for financial assistance and I satisfied myself that Rs. 13 lakhs loaned to the Provincial Bank was absolutely secure, and I can say for the information of the House that a large portion of the amount has already been realized.

So far as Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas' charges that the amount provided was inadequate are concerned, I submit that adequate and inadequate are relative terms. I would not of course say that they are adequate. Another charge has been made that many cultivators could not cultivate their lands for want of finance Sir, so far as that complaint is concerned, Government have no such information.

**Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** How can you receive such complaints, you will not listen to us?

**The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER:** Government proceed through its own machinery. So far as our information goes, none of the cultivators had to stop cultivation for want of necessary credit.

**Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** But you will not believe when we give you facts.

**The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER:** To the arguments of Mr. Biswas I may generally say that arithmetic is not finance. The argument the want of funds on the part of the agriculturists is not borne by facts. Therefore, I oppose all the amendments.

The motion of Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas that the demand of Rs. 47,50,000 be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Sibnath Banerjee that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand be reduced by Rs. 13,50,000 was then put and lost.

The main demand of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister that a sum of Rs. 47,50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances by the Provincial Government" during the year 1939-40 was then put and agreed to.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Spplementary Demand is finished and I will now adjourn the House.

**Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** Sir, what about the discussion of the Jute Ordinance which started yesterday and has not been finished yet? I beg to submit, Sir, that on the last occasion in last year we had not the privilege of discussing the Ordinance. I hope that we shall not have a similar fate this year too.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I hope not.

## Adjournment.

It being 6-30 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Tuesday, the 12th December, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

B. G. Press—1939-40—11100A—800.

# Index to the

# Bengal Legislative Assembly Proceedings.

## (Official Report.)

Vol. LV—No. 2—Sixth Session, 1939.

5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 11th December, 1939.

[(Q.) Stands for question.]

**Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza**

Ejectment of tenants of Chandina rights by landlords: (Q.) p. 22.

Improvement of rural credit system: (Q.) p. 63.

Objects and reasons of Jute Restriction Scheme: (Q.) p. 43.

Problem of landless labourers in Bengal: (Q.) p. 146.

**Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.**

Bengal Land Alienation Bill, 1939: p. 112.

Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939 p. 112.

**Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi**

Prohibition of public meetings of recognised associations of Government servants: (Q.) p. 4.

**Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi**

Holwell Monument in Calcutta: (Q.) p. 19.

**Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.**

Communal proportion of excise shop vendors in Bakarganj: (Q.) p. 128.

**Abdul Wahed, Maulvi**

Resolutions on Ordinances: pp. 119-121.

**Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi**

Appointment of Wakf Commissioner, Bengal: (Q.) p. 6.

**Abul Fazl, Mr. Muhammad**

Bengal Tenancy (Third Amendment) Bill, 1939: pp. 67, 73

**Abwabs**

Levy of—in certain Wards' Estates in Dinajpur. (Q.) p. 6.

**Acharyya Choudhury, Maharaja Sashikanta, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh**

Bengal Tenancy (Third Amendment) Bill, 1939. p. 73.

**Acute tension in Hindu-Muslim relations**

In Noakhali district. (Q.) p. 78.

**Adjournment:** pp. 34, 55, 74, 126, 164.

**Adjournment motions:** pp. 99, 151-152.

**Adjournment motion**

Admissibility of the—of Mr. Niharendu Dutta Mazumdar: pp. 51-53.

**Administrator-General's (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1939:** p. 33.

**Agricultural loan(s)**

And gratuitous relief in flood-affected areas in Chittagong: (Q.) p. 5.

And gratuitous relief in Jessore: (Q.) p. 1.

Advanced in Presidency Division: (Q.) p. 17.

**Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana**

Agricultural loan and gratuitous relief in Jessore: (Q.) p. 1.

**Appointment(s)**

Communal ratio in—made by District Magistrate and Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division: (Q.) p. 90.

Government policy of 50 per cent.—to Muslims: (Q.) p. 127.

Made under Jute Restriction Scheme: (Q.) p. 38.

Number of—made by Government in the different grades of services of salaries ranging from Rs. 30 per month upwards: (Q.) p. 11.

Of hillmen as Sub-Inspectors of Excise: (Q.) p. 140.

Of Marriage Registrar and Kazi at Satkania, Chittagong: (Q.) p. 32.

Of Wakf Commissioner, Bengal: (Q.) p. 6.

**Attendance:** pp. 1, 35, 56, 75, 127.

**Bakarganj**

Communal proportion of excise shop vendors in—: (Q.) p. 128.

**Ballot voting**

Introduction of the system of—in municipal and union board elections: (Q.) p. 9.

**Banerjee, Dr. Suresh Chandra**

Employment of convicts in jail industry: (Q.) p. 75.

**Banerji, Mr. P.**

Fall in price of paddy due to import of rice from Burma: (Q.) p. 24.

**Barman, Babu Shyama Prasad**

Levy of abwabs in certain Wards' Estates in Dinajpur: (Q.) p. 6.

Nomination of members to Dinajpur District Board: (Q.) p. 58.

**Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1939:** pp. 100-106.

**Bengal General Clauses (Amendment) Bill, 1939:** p. 34.

**Bengal Jute Regulation Bill, 1939:** p. 100.

**Bengal Land Alienation Bill, 1939:** p. 112.

**Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1939:** pp. 108-111.

**Bengal Official Records Bill:** pp. 54-55.

**Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939:** p. 112

**Bengal Tenancy (Third Amendment) Bill, 1939:** pp. 66-74.

**Bill**

Administrator-General's (Bengal Amendment)—, 1939: p. 33.

Bengal General Clauses (Amendment) —, 1939: p. 34.

Bengal Jute Regulation—, 1939: p. 100.

Bengal Official Records—, 1939: pp. 54-55.

Bengal Tenancy (Third Amendment) —, 1939: pp. 66-74.

Official Trustees (Bengal Amendment) —, 1939: pp. 32-33.

**Bills (non-official)**

Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1937: pp. 100-106.

Bengal Land Alienation Bill, 1939: p. 112.

Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1939: pp. 108-111.

Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939: p. 112.

Transfer of Property (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1939. pp. 106-108.

**Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal**

Enforcement of the decision of Government regarding communal ratio in public services: (Q.) p. 129.

Government help to cultivators in economic distress: (Q.) p. 30.

Recruitment of Sub-Inspectors of Calcutta Police. (Q.) p. 28.

**Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath**

Committee appointed by Government to enquire into the incidence of rent: (Q.) p. 87.

Filling up of the post of Nazir in District Judge's office, Faridpur (Q.) p. 42.

Supplementary Demands for Grants. Loans and Advances pp. 159-160.

**Bogra**

Mitigation of distress in flood-stricken areas in—. (Q.) p. 19.

**Breaches caused by flood**

In the banks of the Gumti: (Q.) p. 134.

**Bridge**

Over the Damodar at Sadar Ghat, Burdwan: (Q.) p. 133.

**Cancellation of licences**

Of country spirit shops at Mirik and Kalimpong: (Q.) p. 138.

**Certificate procedure**

In Western Duars Khas Mahal. (Q.) p. 11.

**Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath**

Forfeiture of securities of presses and newspapers (Q.) p. 25.

Introduction of the system of ballot voting in municipal and union board elections (Q.) p. 9.

State-aid to industries against foreign competition (Q.) p. 14.

**Chittagong**

Agricultural loan and gratuitous relief in flood-affected areas in—. (Q.) p. 5.

Deforestation in the district of—: (Q.) p. 56.

**Committee**

Appointed by Government to enquire into the incidence of rent (Q.) p. 87.

**Communal proportion**

Of excise shop vendors in Bakarganj: (Q.) p. 128.

**Communal ratio**

Enforcement of the decision of Government regarding in public services: (Q.) p. 129.

In appointments made by District Magistrates and Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division. (Q.) p. 90.

In Government services: (Q.) p. 148.

**Construction**

And maintenance of new and old embankments to water-courses: (Q.) p. 150.

**Construction**—*concld.*

Of a pucca road from Mymensingh to Tangail: (Q.) p. 47.

Of Sarta bridge over the river Halda, Chittagong: (Q.) p. 86.

Of the Satkhira-Navaran Road: (Q.) p. 49.

**Contributions**

Of India Government to Bengal: (Q.) p. 3.

**Copyists of the Criminal Court**

Remuneration of—in Dinajpur and Malda: (Q.) p. 136.

**Cultivators**

Government help to—in economic distress: (Q.) p. 30.

**Das, Mr. Mahim Chandra**

Unsafe and unsatisfactory means of traffic between police-stations Bashkhali and Satkania in Chittagong: (Q.) p. 149.

**Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath**

Appointments made under Jute Restriction Scheme: (Q.) p. 38.

Certificate procedure in Western Duars Khas Mahal: (Q.) p. 11.

Securities demanded, realised and confiscated from newspapers, under present reforms: (Q.) p. 25.

Technical education for employment in jute mills: (Q.) p. 141.

**Das Gupta, Sj. Narendra Nath**

Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1939: pp. 101-108.

**Date of Discussion of War Resolution:** pp. 121-126.

**Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath**

Supplementary Demands for Grants. 40—Agriculture: p. 156.

**Deforestation**

In the district of Chittagong: (Q.) p. 56.

**Delimitations**

Of constituencies of Malda district for District Board elections: (Q.) p. 61.

**Demands for Grants—Supplementary:** pp. 152-164.

**Dinajpur District Board**

Nomination of members to—: (Q.) p. 58.

**District Board elections**

Delimitations of constituencies of Malda district for—: (Q.) p. 61.

**Division:** pp. 71-72, 104-106.

**Dredging**

Of the Brahmaputra in Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 10.

**Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu**

Adjournment motion regarding restraining Mr. Zaman from visiting his own constituency: pp. 51-53.

**Effects of the last flood**

In Murshidabad: (Q.) p. 37.

**Ejectment of tenants**

Of *chandina* rights by landlords: (Q.) p. 22.

**Employment of convicts**

In jail industry: (Q.) p. 75.

**Enforcement of the decision of Government**

Regarding communal ratio in public services: (Q.) p. 139.

**Exhibition**

Industrial—at Chittaranjan Avenue, Calcutta: (Q.) p. 142.

**Exposure of food-articles**

By shop-keepers, hawkers and others (Q.) p. 58.

**Fall in price**

Of paddy due to import of rice from Burma: (Q.) p. 24.

**Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.**

Appointment of Marriage Registrar and Kazi at Satkania, Chittagong (Q.) p. 32.

Appointment of Wakf Commissioner, Bengal: (Q.) p. 7.

Bengal Official Records Bill. p. 54.

**Filling up of the post of Nazir**

In District Judge's Office, Faridpur (Q.) p. 42.

**Financial Business:** p. 32.

**Forfeiture of securities**

Of presses and newspapers (Q.) p. 25.

**Ganguli, Mr. Pratul Chandra**

Release of political prisoners: (Q.) p. 91.

**Government help**

To cultivators in economic distress: (Q.) p. 30.

**Government policy**

Of 50 per cent. appointments to Muslims: (Q.) p. 127.

**Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra**

Adjournment Motion: pp. 151-152.
Resolutions on the Ordinances: pp. 112, 113, 114.

**Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh**

Appointment of hillmen as Sub-Inspectors of Excise: (Q.) p. 140.

Cancellation of licences of country spirit shops at Mirik and Kalimpong: (Q.) p. 138.

**Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca**

Delimitations of constituencies of Malda district for District Board elections: (Q.) p. 62.

Industrial exhibition at Chittaranjan Avenue, Calcutta: (Q.) p. 142.

Introduction of the system of ballot voting in municipal and union board elections: (Q.) p. 9.

Nomination of members to Dinajpur District Board. (Q.) p. 59.

State-aid to industries against foreign competition: (Q.) p. 14.

Technical education for employment in jute mills: (Q.) p. 141.

**Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi**

Communal ratio in appointments made by District Magistrates and Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division: (Q.) p. 90.

**Hindu-Muslim relations**

Acute tension in—in Noakhali district (Q.) p. 78.

**Hotwell Monument in Calcutta:** (Q.) p. 19.

**Improvement of rural credit system:** (Q.) p. 63.

**Incidence of rent**

Committee appointed by Government to enquire into the—: (Q.) p. 87.

**Industrial exhibition**

At Chittaranjan Avenue, Calcutta: (Q.) p. 142.

**Industries**

State-aid to—against foreign competition: (Q.) p. 14.

**Introduction of the system of ballot voting**

In municipal and union board elections (Q.) p. 9.

**Jail industry**

Employment of convicts in—: (Q.) p. 75.

**Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi**

Government policy of 50 per cent. appointments to Muslims. (Q.) p. 127.

**Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed**

Construction of the Satkhira-Navaran Road: (Q.) p. 49.

**Jessore**

Agricultural loan and gratuitous relief in—: (Q.) p. 1.

**Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi**

Relief work of the Hajiganj-Matlab Road in Tippera: (Q.) p. 132.

**Journals**

Proceedings against—and presses: (Q.) p. 26.

**Jute mills**

Technical education for employment in —: (Q.) p. 141.

**Jute Restriction Scheme**

Objects and reasons of—: (Q.) p. 43.

**Kanungos**

Promotion of—to the rank of Sub-Deputy Collectors: (Q.) p. 35.

**Khulna**

Opening of Bemorta Khal in Bagerhat subdivision, —: (Q.) p. 137.

**Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra**

Construction and maintenance of new and old embankments to water-courses: (Q.) p. 150.

Delimitations of constituencies of Malda district for District Board elections: (Q.) p. 61.

Industrial exhibition at Chittaranjan Avenue, Calcutta. (Q.) p. 142.

**Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath**

Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1939 pp. 108-110.

Remuneration of copyists of the Criminal Court in Dinajpur and Malda: (Q.) p. 136.

**Labourers**

Problem of landless—in Bengal: (Q.) p. 146.

**Levy of abwabs**

In certain Wards' Estate in Dinajpur (Q.) p. 6.

**Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari**

Bengal Tenancy (Third Amendment) Bill, 1939: pp. 67-69.

Supplementary Demands for Grants. 40—Agriculture: pp. 154-155.

**Maitra, Mr. Surendra Mohan**

Transfer of Property (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1939: pp. 106-107.

**Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar**

Bridge over the Damodar at Sadar Ghat, Burdwan: (Q.) p. 133.

**Malda district**

Delimitation of constituencies of—for District Board elections: (Q.) p. 61.

**Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal**

Construction of a pucca road from Mymensingh to Tangail: (Q.) p. 47.

**Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi**

Petty irrigation projects for Rajshahi district: (Q.) p. 48.

**Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.**

Appointment of Marriage Registrar and Kazi at Satkania, Chittagong: (Q.) p. 32.

Communal ratio in Government services: (Q.) p. 98.

**Maqbul Hosain, Maulvi**

Breaches caused by flood in the banks of the Gumti: (Q.) p. 134.

**Marriage Registrar**

Appointment of and Kazi at Satkania, Chittagong (Q.) p. 32.

**Mitigation of distress**

In flood-stricken areas in Bogra: (Q.) p. 19.

**Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur**

Mitigation of distress in flood-stricken areas in Bogra: (Q.) p. 19.

**Mukherjee, Mr. S.**

Resolutions on the Ordinances: pp. 116-119.

**Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary**

Deforestation in the district of Chittagong: (Q.) p. 56.

Improvement of rural credit system: (Q.) p. 63.

**Murshidabad**

Effects of the last flood in—: (Q.) p. 87.

**Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Maulvi Khan Bahadur**

Administrator-General's (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1939: p. 33.

Bengal General Clauses (Amendment) Bill, 1939: p. 34.

Filling up of the post of Nazir in District Judge's Office, Faridpur: (Q.) p. 42.

Official Trustees Bengal (Amendment) Bill, 1939: pp. 32-33.

Transfer of Property (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1939: p. 107.

**Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar**

Breaches caused by flood in the banks of the Gumti: (Q.) p. 134.

Bridge over the Damodar at Sadar Ghat, Burdwan: (Q.) p. 133.

Construction and maintenance of new and old embankments to watercourses: (Q.) p. 150.

Construction of a pucca road from Mymensingh to Tangail: (Q.) p. 47.

Construction of Sarta Bridge over the river Halda, Chittagong: (Q.) p. 86.

Construction of the Satkhira-Navaran Road (Q.) p. 49.

Dredging of the Brahmaputra in Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 10.

Opening of Bemorta Khal in Bagerhat subdivision, Khulna: (Q.) p. 138.

Petty irrigation projects for Rajshahi district: (Q.) p. 49.

Unsafe and unsatisfactory means of traffic between police-stations Bashkhali and Satkania in Chittagong: (Q.) p. 149.

**Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.**

Acute tension in Hindu-Muslim relations in Noakhali district: (Q.) p. 78.

Adjournment motion regarding ill-treatment and assault upon an undertrial prisoner: p. 151.

**Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.**—*concld.*

Communal ratio in Government services: (Q.) p. 148.

Employment of convicts in jail industry: (Q.) p. 76.

Enforcement of the decision of Government regarding communal ratio in public services: (Q.) p. 129.

Forfeiture of securities of presses and newspapers: (Q.) p. 25.

Government policy of 50 per cent. appointments to Muslims: (Q.) p. 127.

Holwell Monument in Calcutta: (Q.) p. 20.

Proceedings against journals and presses: (Q.) p. 26.

Protective measures against attacks by enemy bombing 'planes: (Q.) p. 95.

Recruitment of Sub-Inspectors of Calcutta Police: (Q.) p. 29.

Release of political prisoners: (Q.) p. 91.

Release of thirty-four terrorist prisoners: (Q.) p. 17.

Securities demanded, realised and confiscated from newspapers, under present reforms. (Q.) p. 25.

**Newspapers**

Forfeiture of securities of presses and —: (Q.) p. 25.

Securities demanded, realised and confiscated from—under present reforms: (Q.) p. 25.

**Noakhali district**

Acute tension in Hindu-Muslim relations in—: (Q.) p. 78.

**Nomination**

Of members to Dinajpur District Board: (Q.) p. 58.

**Non-Official Members' Bills:** pp. 100-121.

**Objects and reasons of Jute Restriction Scheme:** (Q.) p. 43.

**Official Trustees Bengal (Amendment) Bill, 1939:** pp. 32-33.

**Opening of Bemorta Khal**

In Bagerhat subdivision, Khulna: (Q.) p. 137.

**Petty irrigation projects for Rajshahi district:** (Q.) p. 48.

**Political prisoners**

Release of—: (Q.) p. 91.

**Presses**

Forfeiture of securities of—and newspapers (Q.) p. 25.

Proceedings against journals and—: (Q.) p. 26.

**Problem of landless labourers in Bengal:** (Q.) p. 146.

**Proceedings against journals and presses:** (Q.) p. 26.

**Prohibition of public meetings**

Of recognised associations of Government servants: (Q.) p. 4.

**Promotion of kanungos**

To the rank of Sub-Deputy Collectors: (Q.) p. 35.

**Protective measures**

Against attacks by enemy bombing 'planes: (Q.) p. 95.

**Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb**

Appointment of hillmen as Sub-Inspectors of Excise: (Q.) p. 141.

Cancellation of licences of country spirit shops at Mirik and Kalimpong: (Q.) p. 139.

Communal proportion of excise shop vendors in Bakarganj: (Q.) p. 128.

**Ray Choudhury, Mr. Birendra Kishore**

Dredging of the Brahmaputra in Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 10.

**Recruitment**

Of Sub-Inspectors of Calcutta Police: (Q.) p 28.

**Release**

Of political prisoners: (Q.) p. 91.

Of thirty-four terrorist prisoners: (Q.) p. 16.

**Relief work**

Of the Hajiganj-Matlab Road in Tippera: (Q.) p. 132.

**Remuneration**

Of copyists of the Criminal Court in Dinajpur and Malda (Q.) p. 136.

**Resolutions**

On the Ordinances. pp. 112-121.

**Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh**

Agricultural loan and gratuitous relief in flood-affected areas in Chittagong. (Q.) p. 5.

Agricultural loan and gratuitous relief in Jessore. (Q.) p. 2.

Agricultural loans advanced in Presidency Division: (Q.) p. 17.

Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1937 p. 104.

Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1939: pp. 110-111.

Bengal Tenancy (Third Amendment) Bill, 1939 pp. 66, 70, 72, 73, 74.

Certificate procedure in Western Duars Khas Mahal: (Q.) p. 12.

Committee appointed by Government to enquire into the incidence of rent: (Q.) p. 87.

Communal ratio in appointments made by District Magistrates and Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division: (Q.) p

**Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh** —*concld.*

Effects of the last flood in Murshidabad: (Q.) p. 37.

Ejectment of tenants of *chaudina* rights by landlords: (Q.) p. 22.

Government help to cultivators in economic distress: (Q.) p. 30.

Levy of abwabs in certain Wards Estates in Dinajpur: (Q.) p. 6.

Mitigation of distress in flood-stricken areas in Bogra: (Q.) p. 19.

Problem of landless labourers in Bengal (Q.) p. 146.

Promotion of kanungos to the rank of Sub-Deputy Collectors: (Q.) p. 35.

Relief work of the Hajiganj-Matlab Road in Tippera (Q.) p. 132.

Remuneration of copyists of the Criminal Court in Dinajpur and Malda: (Q.) p. 136.

Supplementary Demands for Grants. 51—Famine Relief: p. 157.

Supplementary Demands for Grants. 13 Other Taxes and Duties: p. 153.

Transfer of Property (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1939 pp. 107-108.

**Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar**

Suffering of people of Arial Bil area in Dacca due to water-hyacinth: (Q.) p. 130.

**Rural credit system**

Improvement of: (Q.) p. 63.

**Sanyallah, Dr.**

Agricultural loan and gratuitous relief in flood-affected areas in Chittagong: (Q.) p. 5.

Construction of Sarta Bridge over the river Halda, Chittagong: (Q.) p. 86.

Deforestation in the district of Chittagong: (Q.) p. 56.

**Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha**

Acute tension in Hindu-Muslim relations in Noakhali district: (Q.) p. 78.

Bengal Official Records Bill: p. 54.

Date of discussion of War Resolution: p. 124.

Proceedings against journals and presses: (Q.) p. 26.

Protective measures against attacks by enemy bombing 'planes: (Q.) p. 95.

Supplementary Demands for Grants: pp. 152, 153.

Supplementary Demands for Grants. Loans and Advances: pp 160-162.

**Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar**

Agricultural loans advanced in Presidency Division: (Q.) p. 17.

Bengal Tenancy (Third Amendment) Bill, 1939: p. 69.

Effects of the last flood in Murshidabad: (Q.) p. 37.

**Sarker, the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan**

Contributions of India Government to Bengal: (Q.) p. 3.

Number of appointments made by Government in the different grades of services on salaries ranging from Rs. 30 per month upwards. (Q.) p. 11.

Prohibition of public meetings of recognised Associations of Government Servants: (Q.) p. 4.

Supplementary Demands for Grants. Loans and Advances pp. 158, 163.

**Sarta Bridge**

Construction of—over the river Halda, Chittagong: (Q.) p. 86.

**Securities**

Demanded, enlisted and confiscated from newspapers, under present Reforms: (Q.) p. 25.

**Sen, Babu Nagendra Nath**

Opening of Bemorta Khal in Bagerhat subdivision, Khulna: (Q.) p. 137.

Release of thirty-four terrorist prisoners: (Q.) p. 16.

**Serajul Islam, Maulvi**

Contributions of India Government to Bengal: (Q.) p. 3.

Exposure of food articles by shopkeepers, hawkers and others: (Q.) p. 58.

Number of appointments made by Government in the different grades of services on salaries ranging from Rs. 30 per month upwards: (Q.) p. 11.

**Services**

Communal ratio in Government—: (Q.) p. 148.

**Shahedali, Mr.**

Promotion of kanungos to the rank of Sub-Deputy Collectors: (Q.) p. 35.

**Speaker, Mr. (The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Azizul Haque, C.I.E.)**

Rulings and Observations on :

Adjournment motion: pp. 51-53, 152.

Date of discussion of War Resolution: pp. 121, 125.

Resolutions on the Ordinances: pp. 112, 113, 114, 115.

**State aid to industries**

Against foreign competition: (Q.) p. 14.

**Sub-Inspectors**

Recruitment of—of Calcutta Police: (Q.) p. 28.

**Suffering of people**

Of Arial Bil area in Dacca due to water-hyacinth: (Q.) p. 130.

**Supplementary Demands for Grants:** pp. 152-164.

**Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.**

Appointments made under Jute Restriction Scheme: (Q.) p. 39.

Bengal Jute Regulation Bill, 1939. p. 100.

Exposure of food articles by shopkeepers, hawkers and others: (Q.) p. 58.

Fall in price of paddy due to import of rice from Burma: (Q.) p. 24.

Objects and reasons of Jute Restriction Scheme: (Q.) p. 43.

Suffering of people of Arial Bil area in Dacca due to water-hyacinth: (Q.) p. 130.

Supplementary Demnads for Grants. 40—Agriculture pp. 154, 156-157.

**Technical education**

For employment in jute mills: (Q.) p. 141.

**Tenants**

Ejectment of—of *chandina* rights by landlords: (Q.) p. 22.

**Terrorist prisoners**

Release of thirty-four—: (Q.) p. 16.

**Tippera**

Relief work in Hajiganj-Matlab Road in—: (Q.) p. 132.

**Transfer of Property (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1939:** pp. 106-108.

**Unsafe and unsatisfactory means of traffic**

Between police-stations Baabkhali and Satkania in Chittagong: (Q.) p. 149.

**Wakf Commissioner, Bengal**

Appointment of—: (Q.) p. 6.

**War Resolution**

Date of discussion of—: pp. 121-126.

**Water-hyacinth**

Suffering of people of Arial Bil area in Dacca due to—: (Q.) p. 130.

**Western Duars Khas Mahal**

Certificate procedure in—: (Q.) p. 11.

B. G. Press—1939-40—12968A—800.